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Pro-Slavery.

MILITARY DEFENCES OF VIRGINIA—DUTY OF THE LEGISLATURE.

[From The Richmond Inquirer, Aug. 10.]

Long life to the Union—may its shadow never be less! It was designed to "establish justice, ensure domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity," and, therefore, we love and cherish it. It was the work of demi-gods, and hence we revere it.

But we have fallen upon evil times. There is reason to apprehend that it is to be perverted from its noble ends and used for far different purposes. If it pass under the control of fanaticism, then will justice be overthrown rather than established, domestic tranquillity give place to intestine convulsions, the common defence and general welfare be disregarded, and the blessings of liberty lost to ourselves and our posterity. Anti-slavery agitation threatens to accomplish these fell purposes. It was a union of slave States in its birth; and when the institution of slavery comes to be a source of inequality and injustice, the Union, as originally constituted, will have ceased to exist.

That condition, we fear, is already in sight, and nothing can avert it but the gallant stand for the Constitution made by Northern men. We of the South must be, in the main, passive spectators of the strife. All that we can do is to save our friends from reproach, by the moderation of our conduct, and to strengthen them by the firmness of our attitude. This is all we can do for the Union; but there is much to be done for ourselves, and but little time to perform it.

In a few years, Kansas will probably ask admission into the Union as a slave State, and may be refused. It needs but Free Soil predominance in the House of Representatives to achieve this end. If refused admission into this Union, she will undoubtedly be received by another, and the United States South will begin their career. This proposition is too clear for argument. Nothing but rank cowardice could induce the South to acquiesce in the exclusion of a slave State on the score of slavery. We assume, therefore, that the South will not acquiesce, and, consequently, we fear that, in a few years, Mason's and Dixon's line may be the boundary of foreign powers.

The possibility of this event creates grave responsibilities. Virginia will be a frontier State. Should war unhappily occur between the two republics, she will receive the first shock. The bare possibility of this thing demands instant preparation, so far as it may be made without hastening the event and with strict fidelity to the Constitution.

If constitutional retaliation can be devised, and will probably be effectual, let us try it, but let not the failure of constitutional expedients find us unprepared for the change in our political relations that must ensue.

The next Legislature will find the Commonwealth threatened with this contingency, and, in the main, unprepared for it. They will find her without an organized military force, save a few companies of volunteers, and without the means of concentrating troops with the rapidity indispensable in modern warfare. The Constitution prohibits us from keeping troops or ships of war, but it does not prohibit a well-organized militia, or a judicious system of military communications.

The Legislature will be faithless to its gravest duties if it adjourn without organizing the militia and providing for the completion of such lines of improvement as will subserve military as well as commercial purposes.

We are civilians, and wholly incompetent to plan a system of military defences for the State, but there are some general considerations, dictated by common sense which even civilians may present without presumption.

It is generally conceded that a whole population cannot be drilled as soldiers. The abandonment of the old militia musters shows the opinion of our people on this point. Nothing, therefore, remains but to classify the adult male population and to drill such portion as may be withdrawn from their usual avocations without public detriment.

According to the census returns and the lists of tithables, there are not less than 200,000 fighting men in the State. One-tenth of these might be drilled without injury to themselves or to the public.

We see no reason why each of the existing regiments, increased in numbers to 200, might not be required to furnish a company of volunteers, or of draughted men, at their option. These companies should be armed, assembled periodically at the regimental muster grounds and drilled.

The graduates of the Military Institute might be required to conduct these drills, instead of teaching school, as they are now required to do.

The companies might be organized into regiments, brigades and divisions, and into infantry, artillery and cavalry.

The advantages of such a system would be that, while no man would be carried out of his county, or injuriously withdrawn from his business, yet every county in the State, except some of the smallest, would have one or more military companies, ready to assemble at a moment's warning, to suppress insurrection or for police purposes. The State would possess a corps of 20,000 men, armed, organized and drilled, and capable of being assembled, in whole or in part, at short notice, for the purpose of offensive or defensive warfare, without seriously interfering with the ordinary pursuits of the people at large, or burdening one section more than another.

We know of no objection that can be urged to such an organization, except the difficulty of assembling the companies for battalion drill. This difficulty is incident to every system except the impracticable and exploded one of drilling the whole adult population. The moment this is dropped and the principle of classification adopted, it becomes difficult to assemble the requisite number of men without transporting them a considerable distance. Nevertheless the difficulty is not insurmountable. Where the population is dense, it does not exist; and where the companies are widely dispersed, they should not be assembled so often as in other cases. The service would not be harder than in the present volunteer companies; and, therefore, the men might be kept enrolled several years; and by the periodical discharge of a certain proportion and the incorporation of an equal number of new men, it would be rendered still easier.

The present volunteer companies would form a part of the proposed force; and where such a company was formed, of course drafting would not be required.

By some such system, an *élite* corps would be always at command to suppress insurrection, repel invasion or act offensively, if required.

Only one thing more would then be needed for the present. Armies without the means of concentration are useless, and in modern warfare this is effected by steam, and with a rapidity not dreamed of thirty years ago. Twenty thousand men, dispersed through the State, would be available to suppress insurrection, but not to repel invasion, unless other means of transportation than their own legs be provided. A system of military communication is, therefore, indispensable to the safety of the State, and should be looked to forthwith.

To our unsophisticated view, the commercial lines already marked out are, in the main, such routes as military defence requires. We call attention to the map of Virginia. It will be found that the northern frontier presents what, in military parlance, we believe is called a salient angle. The north-western face of this angle is covered by the Ohio, and the north-eastern, to some extent, by the Potomac. Neither of these rivers could be crossed by an invading army if well defended, but the space between them, constituting the point of the angle and a portion of its right face, has no such protection. Moreover, the ranges of mountains and the rivers run from the centre of the State towards this open space, and thus present avenues of approach instead of lines of defence. Here, then, is the weak point on the northern frontier. On the east we are wholly exposed to maritime invasion. An enemy, master of the ocean, could land where he likes. There is but one protected point, and that is Hampton Roads. A fleet entering the capes, with an army on board, might land it in Lynnhaven bay, within twelve miles of Norfolk, or in York river, within forty miles of Richmond.

Fortunately for us, however, the railroads already constructed, or under contract, radiate from these two points to the interior, and need but completion to afford the desirable means of concentrating a force at either point. We should say, then, complete without delay the Petersburg and Norfolk and the Richmond and York River roads, for they are military roads of the first importance.

On the north, matters are not so favourably situated; but still, even here many of the roads tend in the right direction. The road from Harper's Ferry to Wheeling, partly on our own and partly on friendly soil, furnishes a means of communication from one flank to the other of the weak position on the northern frontier. The Parkersburg branch runs off in a south-westerly direction; the Hampshire and Loudon road to the south-east, and the Harper's Ferry and Charlestown road, together with the McAdamized road from the latter place to Staunton, leads off to the south.

But it will be observed that two-thirds of the trans-Alleghany region is wholly insulated—that it has no communication with the northern frontier, except a precarious one up the Ohio, and none with Eastern Virginia. Yet, this very region is the seat of a large proportion of the military strength of the State, containing as it does a majority of the white population. It is as if we had a citadel filled with men and outworks feebly manned, with no communication from one to the other. The Covington and Ohio road pierces through the heart of this region, and will, when finished, pour its military strength either upon the seaboard, by the way of Staunton and Richmond, or upon the northern frontier, by the way of Staunton and Harper's Ferry.

It is obvious, then, at a glance, that the most important military road in the State is the Covington and Ohio road, for it not only developes the strength of the trans-Alleghany region of our own State, but connects us with Kentucky. So long, therefore, as this road is unfinished, the right arm of the State may be regarded as paralyzed. It would be entirely useless to raise an army on the banks of the Kanawha to succour the exposed northern frontier, or the defenceless seaboard, for the campaign would be decided before it could extricate itself from the mountain ranges east of that river. The completion of the Covington and Ohio road, and the filling up the gaps between Staunton and Harper's Ferry, seem indispensably necessary to place the military defences of the State on a respectable footing. The Lynchburg and Charlottesville road is also important as facilitating the connection of the northern frontier with the south-west.

We call upon the Legislature to consider these matters, and to give us a military force and the means of using it. Let it be done calmly, and without threat or menace. Avoid every measure calculated to wound our friends, but omit nothing necessary for our own defence.

Practical measures, and not abstract resolutions, are what the people wish and expect. No exception can be taken to the measures we have indicated, for they are strictly constitutional and eminently proper. Carry them out, and we shall be ready for whatever fate has in store for us.

GREAT MASS MEETING IN ATCHISON.

[From The (Atchison, Kansas) Squatter Sovereign.]

Owing to the excitement caused by the actions of one J. W. B. Kelley, an avowed Abolitionist, and to some of his expressions which were made publicly on our streets, and which nearly resulted in his death, a meeting of the citizens of Atchison and vicinity was called to endorse the action of Mr. Grafton Thomason, who gave him one of the severest castigations ever inflicted on a human being.

Ten o'clock being the hour appointed for the meeting, and a vast concourse of people assembled,

On motion of Robert S. Kelley, Doctor Dudley McVay was called to the chair.

On motion of Ira Norris, Robert S. Kelley was elected Secretary.

N. J. Ireland, Esq., being called upon, in an appropriate and explicit speech, stated the objects of the meeting. The speaker went over the actions of this Abolition culprit, and referred to the many instances in which he has been heard to cast reproach upon the institution of slavery, and the uttering of sentiments which were dangerous to be allowed to be uttered in a slave State. He also referred to the castigation administered to him by Mr. Thomason, of whom, as a slaveholder, he had been making uncalled-for and unjust remarks.

On motion, a committee of three, consisting of Robert S. Kelley, Albert G. Smith, and W. B. Brocket, were appointed by the chair to draft resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting.

The committee, after retiring a few minutes, returned, and, through the chairman, reported the following resolutions, which were adopted *unanimously*.

Whereas, by recent occurrences, it is now known there are among us agents of the Underground Railroad, for the express purpose of abducting our slaves; and whereas one J. W. B. Kelly, hailing from some infernal Abolition den, has, both by words and acts, proved himself a worthy representative of such an association; and whereas others in the vicinity, whose idle habits and apparently plenty of money induce us to believe that they are hirelings of some such infamous Society, believing it due, not only to ourselves, but the adjoining portion of Missouri, to rid ourselves of so great an evil, and for the furtherance of this end do

Resolve, 1st, That one J. W. B. Kelly, hailing from Cincinnati, having, upon sundry occasions, denounced our institutions, and declared all pro-slavery men ruffians, we deem it an act of kindness to rid him of such company, and hereby command him to leave the town of Atchison one hour after being informed of the passage of this resolution, never more to show himself in this vicinity.

Resolved, 2d, That in case he fails to obey this reasonable command, we inflict upon him such punishment as the nature of the case and circumstances may require.

Resolved, 3d, That other emissaries of this "Aid Society," who are now in our midst, tampering with our slaves, are warned to leave, else they, too, will meet the *reward* which their nefarious designs so justly merit—*hemp*.

Resolved, 4th, That we approve and applaud our fellow-townsman, Grafton Thomason, for the castigation administered to said J. W. B. Kelly, whose presence among us is a libel upon our good standing and a disgrace to the community.

Resolved, 5th, That we have commenced the good work of purging our town of all resident Abolitionists, and, after cleansing our towns of such nuisances, shall do the same for the settlers on Walnut and Independence creeks, whose propensities for cattle-stealing are well known to many.

Resolved, 6th, That the chairman appoint a committee of three to wait upon said Kelley, and acquaint him with the action of this meeting.

Resolved, 7th, That the proceedings of this meeting be published, that the world may know our determination.

On motion of R. S. Kelley, Esq., the chair appointed a committee of three, with Grafton Thomason, Esq., as chairman, in compliance with the sixth resolution, to notify said J. W. B. Kelly, of Cincinnati, the desire of this meeting.

On motion of Mr. John Bennett, John H. Blassingame and G. T. Challis were selected to complete this committee.

On motion of Mr. Henry Addoms, copies of the resolutions above, and the proceedings of this meeting were ordered to be made out, and a committee of three be requested to circulate them, with a view of obtaining signatures, thereby showing who were pro-slavery men and who were Abolitionists—all who refused to endorse the action of this meeting to be taken into consideration on Saturday evening next, August 11th, at which time the said committee are to make their report. The above resolution having been adopted, without a dissenting voice, the chairman, in compliance with its provisions, appointed Ira Norris, John Bennett, and L. L. Boles, said committee to obtain signatures.

The committee appointed to wait on Mr. Kelly reported that he was not to be found in the city or neighbourhood, but, acting under the belief that "discretion was the better part of valour," had left, some time during the night.

Many matters were discussed in regard to the recent depredations of Free-Soilers settled in the neighbourhood, which resulted in a determination on the part of those present not to rest until this neighbourhood could say that the foot of no Abolitionist pollutes our soil.

The resolutions were then signed by several hundred persons who were on the ground. After which, there being no further business before the meeting, it adjourned to meet again on Saturday, the 11th of August next.

Dudley McVay, President.
Robert S. Kelley, Secretary.

A JUST JUDGE.

Our readers have already been informed that Judge Kane, the U. S. District Judge at Philadelphia, has committed Passmore Williamson to prison for contempt of Court, in the matter of the forcible carrying away of Mr. Wheeler's slaves. The process is a very ineffective one for reaching the property of the plundered Southerner, or affording him redress for this particular injury. It is rather in the nature of punishment of the author of the wrong, an authenticated declaration of the law which has been violated, and a judicial recognition of rights which the criminal party has disregarded and which are subject to such continued outrage by men of his cast. The manner in which this case was brought before Judge Kane and changed, from a proceeding for the liberation and restoration of the negroes, into one against the kidnapper for his criminal agency in the matter, is worthy of a distinct recapitulation for the better understanding of the principles of law which the case has brought into review.

Mr. Wheeler, the American Minister to Nicaragua, was on board of a steamboat at one of the Delaware wharves in Philadelphia with three of his slaves, on their way to New York, when this Williamson, a Philadelphia Abolitionist, came up to the party, forcibly put Mr. Wheeler aside, while he told the slaves they were free, and held him while the slaves were hurried off against his struggle, and against their evident inclinations. The slaves were put into a carriage, Williamson following and encouraging a mob, but not personally aiding in the carrying away of the negroes.

A writ of *habeas corpus* was sued out against Williamson, commanding him to produce the negroes thus forcibly abducted. He responded that they are not and never were in his custody, on which motion was made to commit him for contempt, in making a false return, and the facts above stated were given in evidence.

The questions examined by the Judge were, first, whether Williamson was legally responsible for the abduction of the negroes, not having personally aided in their removal; and secondly, what was the *status* of the negroes at the time of their evasion, under the Constitution of the United States and laws of Pennsylvania; Judge Kane meets all these questions with unhesitating decision. He discards as evasive the plea that Williamson is not responsible for the carrying off of the negroes, because he did not raise a finger or do any act in forcing them off. The Judge decides that, as spokesman, leader and adviser in the transaction, he was responsible for the acts of the mob, which he led and encouraged. For the taking of these negroes, he was personally responsible, and he is legally in custody of them and must be answerable All the court could do in the present state of the question was to put him into prison for contempt in not answering truly the writ of *habeas corpus*.

The question of his guiltiness involves the other graver question, whether the negroes, on being brought within the jurisdiction of Pennsylvania, became free at once, without regard to any rights of their North Carolina owner. This includes the right of *transitu* for Southern men with their slaves across the country of free States. Judge Kane is very emphatic on these points, and repudiates, in terms as broad as is possible in a judge to use, the whole anti-slavery doctrine, assumed in the Lemmon case, for the running off of slaves from their masters when they are passing through free States.

His positions are summarily these:

There is no statute of any State having claims of jurisdiction upon the Delaware river which authorizes the forcible abduction of any person or thing without claim of property, except in aid of legal process.

There is no statute of Pennsylvania which undertakes to divest the rights of property of a citizen of North Carolina, acquired or asserted under the laws of that State because he found it needful or convenient to pass through Pennsylvania.

If there were such a statute, it would not be recognised as valid in the courts of the United States.

And, finally, if these negroes were free, it would be equally criminal to abduct them by force!

This is an important as well as righteous judgment. It shows that the United States Courts will enforce respect in Philadelphia, to the extent of their jurisdiction, for the constitutional rights of the South; and gives renewed hope that the Supreme Court of the United States, in finally affirming these doctrines of Judge Kane, will, if it cannot repress the incendiary efforts of the Abolitionists, stamp them with such a character of unlawfulness as to put them out of the pale of possible support by any man having reverence for the law, or desirous of shunning the penalties of felony.—*N. O. Picayune.*

Selections.

A SCRAP OF HISTORY.

A ROMAN SLAVE CASE REPORTED.

[From The Philadelphia Sun.]

We know we shall gratify our readers generally, Judge Kane and District Attorney Van Dyke in particular, and our erudite and classical cotemporary of the *Pennsylvanian* superlatively, by reporting the celebrated case of *Commonwealth ex rel* Marcus Claudius *vs.* Virginia, heard before his Honour the Decemvir Appius Claudius, B. C. 449, when that Judge delivered the following

DECISION.

Marcus Claudius, a citizen of distinction, who has served the State in many honourable stations, and recently as ambassador to the Volci, passing one of the public schools, recognised his slave Virginia, long absent from his custody, a maiden of fifteen years, of exquisite beauty, and consequently of extraordinary value. When she was playing with her companions, he, as was his undoubted right, seized upon her as his property, but was prevented by the muscular strength of some dozen or twenty of her female friends from taking her away; they declaring that she was free, pressing him aside and threatening to cut his throat; she struggling to release herself from the mob and protesting her wish to go with her master

At length, procuring a hackney coach (we translate freely—the word is *rheda* in the original), that was in waiting, he succeeded in bringing her to this tribunal. He then made oath that she was born in his house of a a female slave, who sold her to the wife of Virginius, named Numitoria, who was barren. Being struck with the justice of his claim, and her reputed father being absent in the army, and as it was not lawful to detain her from her master, I adjudged her to Claudius as his slave, to be kept by him until Virginius should be able to prove his paternity. But one Icilius, interfering by violence, carried her off. And now, Virginius having secretly left the army, appears before me, and, producing her, answers to the claim of Claudius on oath, "that Virginia is his own and not his adopted daughter; that she is the child of his lawfully wedded wife, and not of the slave of Claudius; that neither now or at any other time was she the slave or in the possession of Claudius.

I allowed the claimant to traverse this denial, and several witnesses who were asked by him testified to the facts as I have stated them.

I cannot look upon the denial of ownership by Virginius otherwise than as illusory; in legal phrase, evasive, if not false. It sets out "that Virginia is his own and not his adopted daughter," and in so far it uses legally appropriate language for such denial. But it goes further, and, by added words, gives an interpretation to that language essentially variant from its legal import. It denies that Virginia, now or *at any time whatever*, was the slave or in the possession of Claudius. Now, the evidence of respectable, uncontradicted witnesses establishes the fact beyond controversy, that Virginia was at one time within his power and control. It would be futile and worse to argue, then, the uncontroverted fact, that she was the slave of Claudius. Did she not come voluntarily with him to the first meeting before this tribunal? Being then, by the decree of this Court, in his actual possession, and he having and exercising ownership for however brief a space—if only for an infinitesimal point of time—it is clear, as it seems to me, that, in legal acceptance, she was *then* the slave of Claudius, and the whole denial of Virginius fails from this specific vice, which runs through, pervades and vitiates the whole instrument. The great remedial process by which liberty is vindicated and restored tolerates no language in the response which it calls for that can mask a subterfuge. The dearest interests of life, personal safety, domestic peace, social repose, all that man can value, or that is worth living for, are involved in this principle. The institutions of society would lose more than half their value, and Courts of Justice become impotent for protection, if it could not compel the truth, full, direct and unequivocal, in answer to its mandate. Waiving the inquiry as to the circumstances of the birth of Virginia, I have to say:

1. I know of no statute, either of the Twelve Tables or of the elder days of the Republic, that authorizes the abduction of Virginia from the possession of Claudius, upon the claim of paternity, unless in aid of legal process.

2. That I know of no statute which affects to divest the rights of property of a citizen, acquired and asserted under the decision of this tribunal.

3. That I am not aware that any such statute, if such a one were shown, could be recognised as valid in a Court of the Decemvirate.

4. That it seems to me altogether unimportant whether Virginia were a slave or not. It would be the mockery of philanthropy to assert that, because she had been free, she might not therefore be forcibly abducted by Claudius, under that proud maxim of our fathers, carried out by the rape of the Sabines, *Fortiori cedendum est.*

"That is property which the law declares to be property," is clearly defined by ancient and honoured precedent, and is a maxim indispensable to the administration of social justice and the protection of human right, and too potentially invoked by this tribunal to excuse even a doubt of my duty, or an apology for its performance.

I have said nothing of the motives by which the pretended father of the slave has been governed: I have nothing to do with them; they may give him support and comfort before an infinitely higher tribunal; I do not impugn them here. But it would be a mockery of philanthropy to assert that the well-being of Virginia would be promoted by a transfer from the kind care of her distinguished master to the control of this rude and turbulent soldier, who, under pretence of natural affection, hastens to desert the Eagles of his country which he has sworn to uphold. Let him be committed to the custody of Prefectus Vinumeers, without bail or mainprize, to answer, before a military commission, for the crime of desertion.

As to the second motion of the Actor Van Fosca, that which looks to a committal for perjury, I withhold an expression of opinion in regard to it. It is unnecessary, because, Virginius being under arrest, he may be charged at any time, if he becomes troublesome; and I apprehend that there may be doubts whether the affidavit should not be regarded as extra-judicial and voluntary.

The retributive law of all concerted crimes having been already rigidly, though mercifully, vindicated by our esteemed colleague, the valiant Magister Freedman, by the arrest and imprisonment, on a charge of assault and battery, and highway robbery, of those disorderly females who gave their confederate sanction to the resistance of the arrest of Virginia at the school-house, my conscience obliges me to declare my whole duty is faithfully discharged when, by the power vested in me for the public good, I adjudge Virginia to be the property of Claudius, the plantiff.

Lictors, secure your prisoner! Disperse the multitude, and make room for the master to re-possess his slave!

The truth of history compels the translator to add, that the learned Judge did not long survive the delivery of this exceedingly able opinion, which has ever been esteemed "an honoured precedent" by those who have filled the highest judicial offices. It was received with universal favour by the Lanistas and Gladiator trainers of that day, under the enlightenment of twenty-three past centuries. The only grumbler was the discomfited Virginius, who vented his impotent malice by saying that "whenever a juggling politician had attained power, and wished to commit a villany, he could easily find a legal pretence to justify his conduct"! His utter incapability to form a sane judgment is evident from his subsequent conduct. When Virginia was adjudged to be the slave of Claudius, her reputed father requested a last interview, which was humanely granted, though he had no claim to such leniency, for he snatched a knife from a butcher's stall and plunged it into Virginia's breast, exclaiming, "this is all, my dearest daughter, I can give thee, to preserve thy chastity from the lust and violence of a tyrant"! After this studied insult to the laws of Rome—this parricidal stab at the honour of his country—this act which plainly showed he was not her father, the turbulent soldier fled to the camp, brandishing the bloody knife, excited the soldiers to mutiny, and led his centuria in open revolt to Rome. Appius was seized, but, unwilling to survive the liberties of his country's judiciary, he poisoned himself in prison, making its walls an eternal cenotaph to his fame. Noble type of an unservile Judge. He could not bear to hear the "enraged Northumberlands" of his day exclaim:

Let order die!
And let this world no longer be a stage,
To feed contention in a lingering act;
But let one spirit of the first-born Kane
Reign in all bosoms!

Should not the bust of Appius Claudius adorn the bench of the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania?

JUDGE KANE.

[From The Hartford (Ct.) Religious Herald.]

A tyrannical Judge is one of the vilest and most dangerous of despots. Hence the name of the infamous Jeffreys will be pronounced with loathing wherever the English language shall be spoken. There is, however, in this country one who bids fair to rival the infamous English Judge. We refer to Judge Kane, of Philadelphia, of the United States District Court. Our readers will remember his blood-thirsty disposition in the Christiana case, in which he revived the old exploded and despotic doctrine of "constructive treason" and endeavoured to secure the trial of mere rioters against the Fugitive Slave law on the capital charge of treason! claiming that acts of mob violence were levying war against the United States! But he could not find a Grand Jury to second his endeavours and his prey escaped him. Now we find him repeating his crime, in an analagous way, with more success. He has imprisoned, for an indefinite period, one of the most respectable citizens of Philadelphia, on a charge of constructive contempt of Court! in which he admits that no contempt is directly conveyed or at all intended! Mr. Wheeler, a slaveholder, was on his way to New York to embark for Nicaragua, with a female slave and her two children, and passed a few hours in Philadelphia. By all law as heretofore decided in the Courts, a slave voluntarily brought into a free State by the master becomes free. It appears that this slave made known her slavery and that a Mr. Williamson went on board the steamboat in which Mr. Wheeler was about to leave, and informed her before Mr. Wheeler that she was lawfully entitled to her freedom, and to walk ashore if she pleased. On Wheeler's offering resistance, several coloured men interposed, hurried her off, placed her in a hack which chanced to stand near, and drove away to parts unknown. For this, Williamson, on a writ of *habeas corpus* prostituted to the aid of slave-catching, was required to produce the said slave woman before Judge Kane. He made written answer that she was not then under his control nor at any time had been. Thereupon, Judge Kane sent him to prison for contempt of Court, on the ground that, as he had been the leader in informing the woman of her rights, he must be regarded in law as having had her in his control and possession at the time of the escape! And for this false technical offence, conjured up only as a matter of vengeance, a merchant of Philadelphia has been in prison for two weeks, and is to lie there till he submits to Judge Kane. Besides this, Judge Kane plainly intimated that if the matter were before him, he would decide that slaveholders had a right to bring their slaves into the free States even if the State law forbade it.

And to complete the humiliation of Pennsylvania before this arrogant United States Judge, where a Judge of the Supreme Court of that State was applied to for a *habeas corpus* in Williamson's behalf, he decided that every Judge must be held responsible to his own Court for decisions on cases of contempt. Thank God, we do not live in the State of Pennsylvania, where there is no protection for her citizens against the tyranny of United States Judges. This is another added to the many facts which have conspired of late to show the necessity of securing a more independent class of State Judges who will fearlessly maintain State rights against the usurpation of Federal officers. There is an increasing tendency to centralization in our Government, contrary to the design of its framers, the rights of the States, and the early protests of the Democratic party. But what does slavery care for the Constitution save to press it falsely in the service? Fellow-citizens of the North, let us unite to free our country from this degrading bondage of the Slave Power. Let us put up by all minor questions and give a never to be forgotten answer at the next Presidential election to this interrogatory, *Is there a North?*

P. S.—It is proposed hereafter to spell Judge Kane's name in the original way—CAIN.

MERCY TORTURED INTO CRIME.

From The Wesleyan.

Read the facts narrated below and feel your blood boil. Read the cause of offence and thank God that humanity is not crushed out of every man who lives within the reach of slavery. Read Davis's appeal to his brethren and sisters for their justification, and let your heart-throbs answer the question. Read the last words about his aged parents, and let the unbidden tear drop scalding hot from your red eye balls—for you will weep. Blinding drops prevent a finish to these hurried words. They are sent forth, hissing with contempt and hate for slavery, to inspire in your hearts like passion.

"Pardon Davis, a citizen of Marquette County, Wisconsin, and a member of the Seventh-Day Baptist Church, at Berlin, in said County and State, had been spending some time in Tensas Parish, Louisiana, engaged in business. In September last, however, he had settled up his business in Louisiana, and was upon the point of returning to the North, when he was met by a slave-hunter with his dogs, who drew a revolver, and threatened to fire upon him in case he should stir or make a noise. He was brought before a magistrate, who informed him that he was accused of aiding slaves to escape from their masters. The whole town was soon assembled, in a high state of excitement. The citizens, fearing that the evidence against him would prove insufficient, formed themselves into a mob for the purpose of inflicting lynch law in case he should be cleared. Some cried, Hang him; some, Shoot him; others, Give him a thousand lashes on the bare back. No one dared speak a word in his behalf, save a lawyer from Mississippi. He informed the prisoner that the chances were against him—that if he had been charged with larceny or even murder, there might be hope, but little hope as the case was. He was conducted to jail, through a heavy rain, where he was loaded with irons, his feet put in iron stocks, his hands coupled together with iron handcuffs, closely fitted. These last were subsequently removed next day for him to eat his breakfast.

"The prisoner subsequently had his trial, and was sentenced to *twenty years'* confinement in the State Prison of Louisiana, and is now at Baton Rouge, suffering this penalty.

"From a touching letter, written by the prisoner, in the jail, awaiting his trial, addressed to his brethren and sisters at the Berlin Church, we copy a statement of the accusations against him, and the occasion of his arrest. We remark it was not proven that he furnished fictitious passes to the fugitives as charged by his accusers; it was simply alleged that the passes *resembled* his writing, ink, paper, &c.

"'The cause of my being arrested, as stated by Mr. Perkins, the negro-hunter, is: A man in Mississippi, having discovered a trail of runaways, sent for him to come with his dogs and catch them. He went and caught them, after running them thirty or forty miles. Upon overtaking them, they all ran up to the fence to get away from the dogs. He asked them who they belonged to. They gave him a fictitious name, at the same time presenting passes, which he read; but, being a villain at heart, Perkins took them down, one at a time, and set his dogs on them. The negroes, after being torn in a shocking manner, promised, if he would desist, they would tell the truth. The dogs being taken off, the negroes made the following confession: We belong to Mr. Dunkin, of Louisiana, and the overseer, Huggins, whipped us nearly every night, because, being new hands, we could not pick cotton enough. We stood this as long we could, and then ran away. We went to Mr. Davis's woodyard, and told him our complaint. He let us hide in the wood, and carried us bread and water until last Saturday night. He baked us some bread, gave one of us a pair of shoes, another a hat, another a shirt, a quilt for us to sleep under, some money, these passess, set us across the river in a canoe, one at a time, and told us to go towards sunrise. But, getting entangled in the swamp, they were overtaken. Each negro, after being torn by the dogs the same way, confessed the same.'"

The letter of Mr. Davis closes with the following statement and appeal:

"And now, after hearing what I have written, I ask my brethren and sisters, in the fear of God, if a man should come to you, presenting a lacerated back, exposed to the rays of a southern summer's sun for want of a shirt, feet bleeding from having been torn by snags and briars, hungry and faint, whose crime was that he failed, after straining every nerve, to perform the labour appointed him—I ask, would you—could you—turn him away without assisting him? No, brethren, I think I know you too well—I think you would hand up a loaf of bread, part with some of your surplus clothing, or, if you had no surplus, buy some, as I did—help them across the river, point them to the star of Liberty, and bid them God speed. But either of these—even to give a piece of bread—subjects you to a prosecution, the penalty of which is not less than four nor more than seven years in the State Prison.

"If you could be on the plantation near where I have lived, and, at night, when the cotton is weighed, out of two hundred not less than twelve are whipped every night—O! could you hear the shrieks, cries, groans, prayers—yes, if you could see that victim on his knees praying, with all the earnestness a man is capable of, to that brutal overseer, and promising to strain every nerve on the morrow to pick more cotton—it is enough to melt the heart of any one. Who can look on such scenes as these and not be moved? Brethren, I cannot. And now what more can I say? Have I done wrong? Have I done more than any *man* ought to do? Dear brethren, I leave you to judge; I am willing to be governed by your decision. I wait with the greatest anxiety to hear from you, to know whether I shall receive your sympathies and prayers, or whether I done wrong and am considered a heathen. If the former, I can bear my affliction with fortitude; but if the latter, I feel that my life hangs by a slender thread—that my days are numbered. In the meantime, brethren, pray for me; sisters, remember me in your prayers.

"I must cease, for the last paper in my possession is nearly covered over. And now, my brethren, when you meet to pray for heathen lands, remember, O! remember our own country. Watch over the declining steps of my parents; 'tis the the greatest boon I can ask, for I fear that this intelligence will bring the gray hairs of loving father and affectionate mother to the grave. Comfort them with the thought that we may meet in heaven."

THE SOUTH CRYING "WOLF" AGAIN.

[From The New York Evening Post of August 11.]

Whenever our slaveholding neighbours have been doing or meditating anything particularly outrageous towards the North, they are sure to accompany it with a howl about disunion and the impossibility of living longer under the same national roof with people who treat them so unfairly. When they were trying to get the free territory of California and New Mexico converted into a slave State, our readers will remember what an ado was made about the wrongs of the South, and that separation or dishonour were inevitable.

When they got the Fugitive Slave law, which converted every Northern man and woman into slave-hunters, one would have supposed by the clamour of its friends that the Union could not endure another hour without the special interposition of Divine Providence. Recently a greater outrage upon the rights of the North has been perpetrated than was ever contemplated before, in the violent introduction of slavery into Kansas. To reconcile the people who have been wronged to this ruffianly proceeding, it has been necessary to resort to the old tune, the dangers of the Union.

This music is now heard simultaneously in all parts of the Union, as in 1850. Yesterday we published a letter from Senator Benjamin, of Louisiana, designed to show that our Republic could not possibly endure beyond the political life of the next Congress. To-day we quote from the Richmond *Enquirer* a long article apparently extracted from the first message of the Governor elect, the probable candidate of the Disunionists for the Presidency at the next election, in which we are told that the refusal to admit Kansas into the Union as a slave State must make Mason and Dixon's line the boundaries of foreign States, and, in view of that result, asking the Legislature to take steps immediately to have the State put into a condition of military defence.

The writer says there are two hundred thousand fighting men in Virginia, and that one-tenth, or twenty thousand, ought at once to be drafted into the militia and carefully drilled by the graduates at the military school. With an army thus disciplined and trained, the writer thinks but one thing more would be requisite to render the Old Dominion impregnable to the assaults of Free Soilers. She must have railroads to move her troops with; hence the necessity for immediately completing the Petersburg and Norfolk, and Richmond and York river, the Covington and Ohio, and the Lynchburg and Charlottesville railroads.

This is very absurd and childish twaddle, and yet it is with just such twaddle that Southern journals, and Southern conventions, and Southern politicians, will teem until the Kansas question is finally disposed of. Such twaddle has sufficed to frighten the commercial and manufacturing interests of the Northern States before now, and it is expected that it will serve the same turn again. Richmond and New Orleans have already given the cue through organs of opposite political parties, and we may expect to hear of nothing but the hopeless prospects of the Union, until the South has realized or abandoned all it hopes to accomplish in Kansas.

We have a suspicion that the Northern people have heard this wolf's cry of dissolution once too often, and that, since the emigrants have got possession of Castle Garden, it will be difficult to rally enough Union-savers in the free States to pay the wages of the drummers. At all events, we shall wait till those railroads are completed, and we have some such substantial evidence that our Southern neighbours are in earnest. If, by the clamour of disunion, the Virginians could be persuaded to complete the roads deemed so essential to her military defence, by the writer in the *Enquirer*, without coming to Wall street for the money to do it with, we should be half disposed to join in the cry ourselves, for those improvements would be of infinite service to Virginia, while the disunion bugbear, we suspect, is past doing much harm. Meantime, we respectfully commend to the meditation of Southern statesmen, and especially to the writers for the *Enquirer*, the contents of a paper from the pen of Mr. Benton, which we publish in another part of this sheet. They will there find food for a doubt whether the discontent of the South, with the existing confederacy, is a consequence of, or in any way connected with, the institution of slavery.

Mr. Benton thinks not. He thinks, and we agree with him, that it results from a disregard by the Federal Government of those doctrines of strict construction which are indispensable to a fair and equitable distribution of political rights and privileges between the States, and to the encouragement given to all kinds of special and protective legislation which has inured especially to the benefit of the Northern seaports.

Mr. Benton might have illustrated this view by a reference to the gratuities paid by the Federal Government to ocean mail steamboat monopolies, equal alone in amount to all the other postal service of the United States, and nearly equal to all enjoyed by a single Northern seaport. The theory that the North and the South have any incompatible interests in relation to slavery is of quite modern origin, and one of the most unfortunate delusions that the South can indulge in. Demagogues begat it, and demagogues encourage it for the very purpose of shutting the eyes of Southern people while picking their pockets. Mr. Collins, the President of the Castle Garden Union Safety Committee, receives $800,000 from the General Government as a bonus for the Liverpool line of steamers, of which he is the agent. The principal pecuniary reliance of what are known as the "National" or "Hard" Democracy of this State, George Law, is also the grantee of something like half a million of dollars annually for a line of steamers which he assisted to establish between New York and California. It is such men and such interests as these that have given to every slavery issue of late years such monstrous and unnatural proportions at the South; for in that way have these gigantic jobbers and contractors discovered that they could best succeed in dividing the two great parties at the North, and thereby secure a species of balance of power in Congress, and through it the grants which are daily making the Southern States more and more feeble, and more and more dependant upon the Northern industry, Northern commerce and Northern capital.

The South has already lost as much as she is worth, through these Union-savers whom she has taken to her bosom; and until she can agree to submit patiently to the decision of the Federal Government upon all questions of Federal jurisdiction, and assist faithfully in bringing back the Government to the old democratic republican basis, eschewing all special legislation, neither Union nor disunion will afford her any substantial relief.

MOB LAW IN WESTERN MISSOURI.

To the Editor of the Missouri Democrat:

I wish to present to the public, through the columns of the *Democrat*, a plain statement of an affair which recently took place in Cass County, Mo. In the providence of God, and the arrangement of the Methodist Episcopal Church, I was called to preach the Gospel in Cass County, Mo., in the Harrisonville circuit. I endeavoured to discharge my duty as a Christian minister, to the best of my ability, teaching nothing but those truths which make wise unto salvation, and having nothing to do with any of the vexing questions of the day. I had laboured thus on the above circu

testimony would be attended to. It came from coloured parties; and having just decided that the slave code runs over the free States, it was out of the question to admit negroes as witnesses. But of Judge Lewis a hearing was to be anticipated. The point presented to him was—Is not the Supreme Court of the State bound to extend its protection to the citizens of the State?—and his decision was, that it was only bound to extend its protection to the dignity of a Federal Court, absolutely engaged in the violation or negation of all civic and State rights. This, of course, once admitted, the old Democratic dogma of State sovereignty disappears before the adjudication of Judge Kane. A citizen of the State is deprived of liberty, substantially for life—for the injustice capable of the original committal is capable of the most vindictive endurance—and neither by his own act nor by the interference of any arm of justice in his favour, nor by resort to the manifold guarantees for personal freedom supplied by *Magna Charta*, Right of Petition, Constitution and Law, has he any chance of release. This, we are assured, is the irrefragable law of the books; and, being so, all we can say of it is, it is law that should be unlegislated forthwith; it is an article not worth the trouble and means spent to acquire it. If Judge Lewis's library furnish no better, he had better burn his books, and bury his quill at the earliest available moment. Had he indicated the means by which Mr. Williamson could obtain his release; had he decreed him authority to catch and produce the three negroes, whom the law had announced to be as free as Judge Lewis himself; had he indicated any legal course possible for the prisoner, and which he had neglected and refused to adopt, in order to vindicate a right to liberty withheld without any process of law, he would have shown at least a desire to afford that shelter which a wicked regard to punctilio and the reports induced him to deny.—*N. Y. Times.*

THE INDIANA BLACK LAW.

From The Fort Wayne (Ia.) Times, August 6th.

TEN days ago, James P. Brown, a citizen of Ohio, travelling westward, stopped in this city and was detained here on business a few days. This person belongs to that proscribed and hated race on whose skin God's sun has imprinted a darker hue than on ours. On the 30th day of July, Brown was arrested on a warrant from J. B. Dubois, issued on information and complaint of John Hardendorf. On Brown's own statement that he was a citizen of Ohio, he was convicted and fined ten dollars and cost of suit. In default of payment, he was committed to jail. A writ of habeas corpus was sued out and this matter came on for hearing before his Honour, James W. Borden, at chambers, on a writ of habeas corpus, on Thursday, and was finally determined on Friday last. Messrs. L. M. Ninde and C. Case appeared for the prisoner, and W. W. Carson for the State. The sheriff made return to the writ of habeas corpus, that he held the prisoner by virtue of the mittimus of J. B. Dubois, Esq. The mittimus set out that "James P. Brown, a mulatto and person of colour, was found in the county of Allen and State of Indiana, in violation of law—whereupon said Brown was arrested and tried for said offence and found guilty." To this return Messrs. Ninde & Case filed exceptions, alleging that it showed no conviction for any offence known to the laws of Indiana, nor did it appear that any such final judgment had been rendered as would authorize the issuing of a mittimus. These exceptions were argued by counsel and sustained by the Court, his Honour holding that said mittimus did not authorize the holding of the prisoner in custody. Mr. Case then moved that the prisoner be discharged. Mr. Carson interposed a motion that the Court proceed to bear evidence to sustain the charge against the prisoner, and that he be held to bail for his appearance at the next Common Pleas Court, to which counsel for defendant objected. Both motions were argued at considerable length by counsel, and the Court, taking the same under advisement, adjourned to Friday morning at 9 o'clock. Money was deposited as security for the appearance of the prisoner at the time appointed, and he was permitted to go at large.

Friday morning prisoner appeared in person and by his counsel. Mr. Carson also appeared for the State. His Honour overruled the motion made by Mr. Case for the discharge of the prisoner, and sustained the motion of Mr. Carson, deciding that he would hear the evidence against the accused with a view to recognising him to appear at the next Common Pleas. To these rulings of the Court counsel for the prisoner excepted. Mr. Carson then asked and obtained leave to file an affidavit of John Hardendorf, dated August 2, 1855, charging said Brown with being a *mulatto*, and with having come into the County and State on or about July 20, 1855, contrary to Section 1st of the act to enforce the 13 Article of the Constitution, &c., and proposed to offer evidence to sustain said charge.

To the filing of this affidavit, and to the introduction of the proposed evidence, the prisoner, by his attorney, objected, but his objections were overruled. Thereupon John Hardendorf and Dr. Bricker were sworn and examined on behalf of the prisoner.

Mr. Case then addressed the Court, assuming, among others, these positions:

1. That the Court had no power to investigate in this manner any charge save that on which Brown was originally committed, as set forth in the mittimus, and that, as had already been decided, amounted to no charge at all.

2. That the filing of an affidavit containing a new charge, on the hearing of a habeas corpus, and the introduction of testimony to sustain it, was a proceeding without precedent, and altogether unwarranted in law.

3. But admitting the right of the State to file the affidavit, and introduce the proof, she had entirely failed to make a case. "The statute," said he, "designates two classes of persons, and only two, who are prohibited from coming into the State, viz.: *Negroes* and *Mulattoes*, and, being a highly *penal* statute, every word and sentence of it must be strictly construed. If it contains words susceptible of a limited as well as a more general meaning, the limited interpretation in favour of the accused must prevail. This rule of construction was as old as the *common law* and as well established as any of its venerable safeguards." Adopting this rule, only a full-blooded African, or his descendant and a half-blood—half white and half black blooded—are excluded by the statute; and when a proscution is instituted under it, the State must prove what she alleges, viz., in this case, that the accused is a *mulatto*. She has utterly failed to make such proof. Mr. Case here cited *Webster* to show the strict meaning of the words *negro* and *mulatto*, and read numerous decisions, in Massachusetts and Ohio Reports, wherein the definition of Webster had been adopted by the courts in cases analogous.

The argument of Mr. Case was full, logical and conclusive, and worthy of this able, earnest and honest lawyer, and friend of humanity and liberty.

Mr. Carson, on behalf of the State, insisted at length that the *intention* of the makers of the Constitution and the Legislature was to exclude all persons of more than one-eighth negro blood, and that this was evident from the statutes prohibiting such persons from giving testimony, and from intermarriage with whites.

To this position of Mr. Carson it was well replied by Mr. Ninde, that, from the very words used by the Legislature in these last named statutes, it was evidently the judgment of that body that the words *negro* and *mulatto* would not answer the purpose in view; else why did they not use them?

Mr. Ninde replied eloquently and conclusively to every position assumed by Mr. Carson, closing at 2 P. M.

His Honour, Judge Borden, then delivered his opinion, holding the construction of the statute contended for by the prisoner's counsel to be correct, and that the State having failed to prove Brown to be a mulatto or negro, he must be discharged. Ordered accordingly.

JUDICIAL OUTRAGES.

Washington Correspondence of The Times.

THE Philadelphia slave case presents another of those wanton judicial outrages which are rapidly driving the North on to the adoption of energetic measures of defence against Federal encroachment. The United States Federal and Circuit Courts of Pennsylvania have become famous for their subserviency to the demands of the Executive power at Washington. In their sanction of the doctrine of constructive treason, in the protection of Federal officers against the State Courts, and now in the nullification of the laws of Pennsylvania in behalf of those of North Carolina, the tribunals named have shown themselves active and efficient enemies of the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth. While a pure and independent judiciary is the shield of liberty, there is no power in the State which can be more easily converted into an ally and instrument of tyranny. The corruption and cruelty of the Judges were the immediate cause of the English revolution of 1688. The same cause may effect a like result. It is certain that the doctrines of Judge Kane's decision against Williamson sap all independent legislative power in the Northern States; give Southern State laws on slavery—and why not on all other subjects?—full force and effect at the North, and, in short, point out a dissolution of the Union as the only remedy for the intolerable evils of a foreign jurisdiction. What citizen of Pennsylvania with the soul and mettle of a freeman would not declare for an instant severance of the connection if the principle is to prevail that North Carolina laws give her citizens power to hold slaves for a single hour in Pennsylvania, when that privilege is denied by her statutes to himself.

The mode of appointment makes all the Federal Courts packed juries as between the North and South. The principle is perfectly settled and *always* acted upon in the Senate, that no Northern man shall be confirmed for any judicial appointment whatever until he shall first have approved himself Southern in his views of the laws and the Constitution. I remember a very remarkable case in point. When Judge Smith Thompson died, Mr. Tyler nominated John C. Spencer to be Justice of the Supreme Court. He was rejected, though regarded as the ablest lawyer of New York. The cause of his rejection was undisguised. He was too firm and too conservative to be trusted on the slavery question. Next Chancellor Walworth was nominated. His nomination lay in the Senate four or five months, and would have been rejected because of a casual extra judicial remark not favourable to some certain pretension of the South. He was withdrawn. Judge Nelson was appointed because it was known that he could be relied upon as a Northern Judge with Southern principles. The time for being mealy-mouthed on this subject has gone by. The hope of justice for the North, or for any Northern citizen, in cases involving Southern pretensions as to slavery, is utterly fallacious. And it is just as certain that the time for fighting such a monstrous and unendurable evil is now present.

One word as to Wheeler's slaves. She was asked if she could leave her children, and remain in a free State. Now, she had been sold to the South only a year ago, without her children, from this District, and if she had gone, she would never have seen them again. Affected by an act of such horrible cruelty, the lady who sold the woman entreated Mr. Wheeler to buy her before she set out for the Georgia plantations, which he did. The transaction is honourable to all concerned; but the woman well knew, from what she had seen a thousand times, that on her master's first reverse she would be sold again to the South, and separated from her children forever.

AQUIDAY.

PASSMORE WILLIAMSON'S CASE.

THE MOTION AT BEDFORD FOR HIS RELEASE—ARGUMENT OF MESSRS. GILPIN AND MEREDITH—PETITION OF MR. WILLIAMSON.

[Reported for The Evening Post.]

ON Monday morning, the 13th of August, at 10 o'clock, in the quiet Court-House of the quiet town of Bedford, down among the Alleghanies, the petition of Passmore Williamson, for a writ of *habeas corpus*, was presented to five of the Judges of the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, there convened at General Term, by Edward Hopper, Esq., and C. Gilpin, Esq., of the city of Philadelphia. The Court did not at once grant the writ, but instructed the counsel of Mr. Williamson that they would hear argument upon the subject on Thursday, the 16th instant.

In accordance with this announement, the counsel of Mr. Williamson appeared before the Court upon that day.

The motion was, by the necessity of the thing, *exparte*. The Court was held by Chief Justice Lewis and Justices Thompson, Black, Lowrey and Knox, and argument was presented by Charles Gilpin, Esq., formerly Mayor of Philadelphia, and the Hon. William M. Meredith, for the the petitioner—Edward Hopper, Esq., of Philadelphia, assisting.

PETITION OF PASSMORE WILLIAMSON.

To the Honourable the Judges of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

The petition of Passmore Williamson respectfully sheweth—That your petitioner is a citizen of Pennsylvania, and a resident of Philadelphia; that he is a member of "The Pennsylvania Society for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery, and for the Relief of Free Negroes Unlawfully held in Bondage, and for Improving the Conditions of the African race," incorporated by act of Assembly, passed the 8th day of December, A.D., 1789, of which Dr. Benjamin Franklin was the first President, and that he is Secretary of the Acting Committee of said Society.

That, on Wednesday, the 18th of July last past, your petitioner was informed that certain negroes, held as slaves, were then at Bloodgood's hotel, in the city of Philadelphia, having been brought by their master into the State of Pennsylvania, with the intention of passing through to other parts. Believing that the persons thus held as slaves, were entitled to their freedom, by reason of their having been so brought by their master voluntarily into the State of Pennsylvania, the petitioner, in the fulfilment of the official duty imposed upon him by the practice and regulations of said Society, went to Bloodgood's hotel for the purpose of apprising the alleged slaves that they were free, and finding that they with their master had left the said hotel, and gone on board the steamboat of the New York line, then lying near the Walnut street wharf, your petitioner went on board the same, found the party, consisting of a woman, named Jane, about 35 years of age, and her two sons, Daniel, aged about 12, and Isaiah, aged about 7, and, in presence of the master, informed the said Jane that she was free by the laws of Pennsylvania; upon which she expressed her desire to have her freedom, and, finally, with her children, left the boat of her own free will and accord, and without any coercion or compulsion of any kind; and having seen her in the possession of her liberty with her children, your petitioner returned to his place of business, and has never since seen the said Jane, Daniel and Isaiah, or either of them; nor does he know where they are, nor has he had any connection of any kind with the subject.

Your petitioner used no violence whatever, except simply holding back Col. Wheeler, their former master, when he attempted, by force, to prevent the said Jane from leaving the boat. Some half dozen negroes, employed, as your petitioner is informed, as porters and otherwise, at the wharf and in the immediate neighbourhood, of their own accord and without any invitation of the petitioner, but probably observing or understanding the state of affairs, followed the petitioner when he went on board the boat. An allegation has been made that they were guilty of violence and disorder in the transaction; your petitioner observed no acts of violence committed by them, nor any other disorder than the natural expression of some feeling at the attempt of Col. Wheeler to detain the woman by force; that there was not any violence or disorder amounting to a breach of the peace, is also fairly to be inferred from the fact that, two police officers were present, who were subsequently examined as witnesses, and stated that they did not see anything requiring or justifying their interference to preserve the peace. And your petitioner desires to state explicitly, that he had no preconcert or connection of any kind with them or with their conduct, and considers that he is in no way responsible therefor. Your petitioner gave to Col. Wheeler, at the time, his name and address, with the assurance that he would be responsible if he had injured any right which he had; fully believing at the time, as he does still believe, that he had committed no injury whatever to any right of Col. Wheeler.

On the night of the same day, your petitioner was obliged to leave the city; to attend an election of the Atlantic and Ohio Telegraph Company, at Harrisburg, and returned to Philadelphia on Friday, the 20th of July, between 1 and 2 o'clock, A.M. Upon his return, an *alias* writ of *habeas corpus* was handed to him, issued from the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, upon the petition of the said John H. Wheeler, commanding him that the bodies of the said Jane, Daniel and Isaiah he should have before the Hon. John K. Kane, Judge of the said District Court, forthwith. To the said writ your petitioner the same day, viz., the 20th day of July last past, made return, that the said Jane, Daniel and Isaiah, or by whatever name they may be called, nor either of them, were not then, nor at the time of issuing said writ, or the original writ, or at any other time, in the custody, power, or possession of, nor confined nor restrained of their liberty, by your petitioner, therefore, he could not have the bodies of the said Jane, Daniel and Isaiah before the said Judge, as by the said writ he was commanded.

Whereupon and afterwards, to wit, an the 27th day of July aforesaid, it was ordered and adjudged by the Court that your petitioner be committed to the custody of the Marshal, without bail or mainprize, as for a contempt in refusing to make return to a writ of *habeas corpus*, heretofore issued against him at the instance of Mr. John H. Wheeler; all which appears by the record and proceedings in the said case, which your pretitioner begs leave to produce, and a copy of an exemplification of which is annexed to this petition. Thereupon, on the same day, a warrant was issued commanding that the Marshal of the United States, in and for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, forthwith take into custody the body of your petitioner for a contempt of the Honourable the Judge of the said District Court, in refusing to answer to the said writ of *habeas corpus*, theretofore awarded against him, the said petitioner, at the relation of Mr. John H. Wheeler; a copy of which is hereto annexed, and also a warrant, by and from the Marshal of the United States, to the keeper of the Moyamensing Prison, a copy of which is also hereto annexed; under which warrants your petitioner was committed to the said prison, and is now there detained, without bail or mainprize.

Notwithstanding the record is silent on the subject, your petitioner thinks it proper to state that, on the return of the writ of *habeas corpus*, the Judge allowed the relator to traverse the said return by patrol, under which permission the relator gave his own testimony, in which he stated that he held the said Jane, Daniel and Isaiah as slaves, under the law of Virginia, and had voluntarily brought them with him, by railroad, from the city of Baltimore to the city of Philadelphia, where he had been accidentally detained at Bloodgood's Hotel about three hours; and certain other witnesses were examined; from the testimony thus given, though not at all warranted by it or by the facts, the said Judge decided that your petitioner had been concerned in a forcible abduction of the said Jane, Daniel and Isaiah, against their will and consent, upon the deck of the said steamboat, but admitting that your petitioner took no personally active part in such supposed abduction after he had left the deck.

The hearing took place on the morning of Friday, the 20th of July, at 10 o'clock, your petitioner having had the first knowledge of the existence of any writ of *habeas corpus* between 1 and 2 o'clock on the same morning. Under these circumstances, before the said testimony was gone into and afterwards, the counsel of your petitioner asked for time, until the next morning, for consultation and preparation for the argument of the questions which might arise in the case, which applications were refused by the Court, and the hearing went on, and closed on the same morning between 12 and 1 o'clock.

On Tuesday, the 31st July, 1855, your petitioner presented to the Hon. Chief Justice of this Court, a petition for a writ of *habeas corpus*, which was refused.

Inasmuch as your petitioner is thus deprived of his liberty for an indefinite time, and possibly for his life, as he believes, illegally; inasmuch as he is a native citizen of Pennsylvania, and claims that he has a right to the protection of the Commonwealth, and to have recourse to her Courts for enlargement and redress; he begs leave respectfully to state some of the grounds on which he conceives that he is entitled to the relief which he now prays.

Whatever may be the view of the Court as to the probability of his disgrace on a hearing, your petitioner respectfully represents that he is clearly entitled to have a writ of *habeas corpus* granted, and to be thereupon brought before the Court. Upon this subject the Pennsylvania *habeas corpus* act is imperative. Indeed, as the question of the sufficiency of the cause of his detention directly concerns his personally liberty, any law which should fail to secure to him the right of being personally present at its argument and decision, would be frightfully inconsistent with the principles of the common law, the provisions of our bill of rights, and the very basis of our government.

It is believed that no case, prior to that of your petitioner, is reported in Pennsylvania, of a refusal of the writ to a party restrained of his liberty, except in the case of *exparte* Lawrence, 5 Binn. 304, in which it was decided that it was not obligatory on the Court to issue a second writ of *habeas corpus* where the case had been already heard on the same evidence upon a first writ of *habeas corpus* granted by another Court of the petitioner's own selection—in other words, that the statutory right to the writ was exhausted by the interpretation and hearing of the first writ, and that the granting of a second writ was at the discretion of the Court. This case, therefore, appears to confirm strongly the position of your petitioner that he is absolutely entitled at law to the writ for which he now prays.

On the hearing there will be endeavoured to be established on behalf of your petitioner, on abundant grounds of reason and authority, the following propositions, viz.:

1. That it is the right and duty of the Courts, and especially of the Supreme Court of this Commonwealth, to relieve any citizen of the same from illegal imprisonment.

2. That an imprisonment under an order of a Court or Judge not having jurisdiction over the subject matter, and whose order is therefore void, is an illegal imprisonment.

3. That the party subjected to such imprisonment has a right to be relieved from it on *habeas corpus*, whether he did or did not make the objection of the want of jurisdiction before the Court or Judge inflicting such imprisonment; and that if he did not make such objection, it is immaterial whether he were prevented from making it by ignorance of the law, or by the want of extraordinary presence of mind, or by whatever other cause.

4. That the Courts and Judges of the United States are Courts and Judges of limited jurisdiction, created by a government of enumerated powers, and in proceedings before them the records must show the case to be within their jurisdiction, otherwise they can have none.

5. That if the record of any proceeding before them show affirmatively that the case was clearly without their jurisdiction, there can no presumption of fact be raised against such record for the purpose of validating their jurisdiction.

6. That no writ of *habeas corpus* can be issued to produce the body of a person not in custody under legal process, unless it be issued in behalf and with the consent of said person.

7. That at common law the return to a writ of *habeas coopus*, if it be an unevasive, full and complete, is conclusive, and cannot be traversed.

8. That a person held as a slave under the law of one State, and voluntarily carried by his owner for any purpose into another State, is not a fugitive from labour or service within the true intent and meaning of the Constitution of the United States, but is subject to the laws of the State into which he has been thus carried; and that by the law of Pennsylvania a slave so brought into this State, whether for the purpose of passing through the same or otherwise, is free.

9. That the District Court of the United States has no jurisdiction whatever over the question of freelom or slavery of such person, or of an alleged abduction of him, nor any jurisdiction to award a writ of *habeas corpus* commanding an alleged abductor, or any citizen by whom he may be assumed to be detained, to produce him.

10. That in case of a fugitive from service or labour from another State, the District Court of the United States has jurisdiction to issue a warrant for the apprehension of such fugitive, and in case he be rescued and abducted from his claimant, to proceed by indictment and trial by jury, against such abductor, and on conviction to punish him by limited fine and imprisonment; but even in the case of a fugitive slave, said Court nor the Judge thereof, has no jurisdiction to issue a writ of *habeas corpus*, commanding the alleged abductor to produce such fugitive; or to enforce a return of such writ, or allow a traverse of the return thereof if made, or upon such traverse in effect convict the respondent, without indictment or trial by jury of such abduction, and thereupon punish him therefore by unlimited imprisonment in the name of a commitment as for a contempt in refusing to return such writ of *habeas corpus*.

11. That generally it is true that one Court will not go behind a commitment by another Court for contempt; but that this only where the committing Court has jurisdiction of the subject matter; and your petitioner submits that when the circumstances of the supposed contempt are set forth upon the record of commitment, and it further appears thereupon that the whole proceedings were *coram non judice*, and that for that and other reasons that commitment was arbitrary, illegal and void—it is the right and duty of a court of competent jurisdiction by writ of *habeas corpus* to relieve a citizen from imprisonment under such void commitment.

12. That neither the District Court of the United States nor the Judge thereof had any shadow or colour of jurisdiction to award the writ of *habeas corpus* directed to your petitioner, commanding him to produce the bodies of Jane, Daniel and Isaiah, and that such writ was void; that your petitioner was in no wise bound to make return thereto; that the return which he did make thereto was unevasive, full and complete, and was conclusive and not traversable; that the commitment of your petitioner as for a contempt in refusiug to return said writ is as arbitrary, illegal and utterly null and void; that the whole proceedings, including the commitment for contempt, were absolutely *coram non judice*.

13. That in such oppression of one of her citizens, a subordinate Judge of the United States has usurped upon the authority, violated the peace and derogated from the sovereign dignity of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; that all are hurt in the person of your petitioner, and that he is justified in looking with confidence to the authorities of his native State to vindicate his rights, by restoring his liberty.

To be relieved, therefore, from the imprisonment aforesaid, your petitioner now applies, praying that a writ of *habeas corpus* may be issued according to the act of Assembly, in such case made and provided, directed to Charles Horiz, the said keeper of said prison, commanding him to bring before your Honourable Court, the body of your petitioner, to do and abide such order as your Honourable Court may direct.

And your petitioner will ever pray, &c.

PASSMORE WILLIAMSON.

Moyamensing Prison, August 9th, 1855.

This motion was entirely free from the *eclat* ordinarily attending cases involving personal interests so vital in character, especially when argued by counsel of such distinguished ability, before a bench comprising the greater portion of the judicial learning of the State.

By ten o'clock the court room was filled by a company of ladies and gentlemen, consisting mostly of those who were guests at the "Springs," and who were attracted by the fame of the counsel or by the importance of the issue. The motion having been called, Charles Gilpin, Esq., arose and opened the argument. He arose, he said, "to prepare the way for one who, coming after him, should be preferred before him, and he also arose impressed with a deep sense of responsibility, and in the extraordinary and unusual situation of a counsel presenting argument to a court to induce them to grant that thing to a man accused of no crime, which the merest pickpocket might have for the asking, he referred to the writ of *habeas corpus*." "The difficulty experienced in obtaining this writ for Mr. Williamson," he said, "was in singular contrast with the case with which Colonel Wheeler had obtained the writ for which he had applied, though in this case the writ was '*In favorem libertatis*,' and in that instance the Federal Court had been prompted to convert it into a writ '*In favorem servitudinis*.'"

The counsel then proceeded to review the cases of those who had been committed for contempt, and which had been cited by Chief Justice Lewis in support of his position, when denying the former application of Mr. Williamson for a writ of *habeas corpus*. The counsel contended that none of these cases could be taken as precedents in the present instance, as none of them were analogous, inasmuch as in all of them, jurisdiction over the matter in question was confessed in the committing Court, a thing which was denied in this case. The learned gentleman proceeded to point out the importance of these differences at considerable length. He had looked, he said, in vain for any law vesting judges of the United States Courts with power to issue writs of *habeas corpus* in such cases as the present; and he contended that if the United States had no jurisdiction of the case, then its proceedings were mere nulities.

The counsel then cited cases brought *coram non judice*, which had been declared void, and further argued that if the United States Court had committed a citizen of Pennsylvania to prison, in a case in which it had no jurisdiction, then the Supreme Court of the State of Pennsylvania could and should lay aside all scruples, on the score of judicial courtesy and interfere to discharge the prisoner.

Chief Justice Lewis here interruped the counsel, saying that there was no doubt upon this point, that it was unnecessary to go further into the argument of it, as the Court were of opinion that, where it clearly appeared upon the face of the record that the Federal Court had no jurisdiction, the State would have a right to discharge the prisoner.

The counsel replied that he was glad to hear that opinion from the lips of the Court, as he had supposed that his honour had thought otherwise, that it left him but one other point to argue to the Court, which was the lack of jurisdiction of the United States Court in this matter. The learned counsel continued to speak to this point, citing many authorities to sustain his position and occupying about an hour in the delivery of an argument replete with learning and sound reasoning. On its conclusion, Mr. Meredith arose to address the Court. The Chief Justice announced to him that the one hour rule would be suspended in the present instance, and that the counsel might occupy such time as he desired. Mr. Meredith replied that he had no doubt that indulgence as to time would be extended to him by the Court, both from the extraordinary nature of the present motion, and of the interests involved in the decision which their honours should give upon the subject.

He was there, he said, not merely as counsel for the prisoner, but in behalf also of the State of Pennsylvania, the liberties of whose subjects had been so grossly violated in the imprisonment of Mr. Williamson.

The learned counsel then prefaced his arguments by saying, that he appeared before the Court asking a writ of *habeas corpus* under the act of Assembly of Pennsylvania, of 1785, which *imperatively demands* the issuing of the writ; and with all respect for the Court which he addressed, he entered his protest at the threshold of the proceedings against being compelled, upon a motion for a writ of *habeas corpus*, to present these arguments to the consideration of the Court, which should properly be presented upon the return of the writ, and upon the question as to what ought to be the decision upon such writ.

He therefore protested against this case being taken as a precedent in that point of view. The learned counsel then proceeded to urge upon the attention of the Court the following arguments, adhering throughout to the line of argument laid down in the able petition which we herewith lay before our readers. In reporting Mr. Meredith's remarks, we have endeavoured to preserve the spirit of the thought, though conscious of having lost a great portion of the felicity of the language. "If your honours please," said the counsel, "there are some principles never to be denied, and among them and above them all, is this: That the Supreme Court of this Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has power to inquire into the cause of the committal of any one imprisoned within her borders, and it is the duty of your honours and of this Court to protect the property and liberty of the citizens of this State. What is the case into the circumstances of which you are now called to examine?

"Passmore Williamson is in prison; and he is in prison by the commitment of a court possessing no jurisdiction whatever, sufficient to authorize such action. The question which came before the court upon the occasion of his commitment was one relating to the *status* of persons actually within the State of Pennsylvania, and brought here voluntarily.

"And here I would say that a certain monstrous doctrine seems to have obtained somewhat among us, which has sprung up within a few months, which is gaining ground, and which has been fostered by the recent decision of Judge Kane, and that doctrine is in regard to a certain class of persons who are held to labour by others in other of our States, and it is to the effect that those persons claiming ownership over them have the same rights over them when brought into this State voluntarily, that they possess in the State from whence they come. How so singular and so pernicious a doctrine first obtained, or from whence it came, I cannot tell, nor do I know upon what ground it is based; but this I know, sir, that it is high time that the growth of so startling an error was checked.

"Now, your honour, every man who comes within the State of Pennsylvania is entitled *only* to the rights of citizens of the State of Pennsylvania, and I venture to say, sir, that the right to hold slaves is not among them. The *status* of a person is decided by the law of the State in which he is. This point has been decided again and again, both in this country, in France and in England, and the Constitution of the United States gives the Federal Courts no right whatever to interfere between the domestic relations of individuals—by relations I mean reciprocal rights and obligations.

"If it were otherwise, sir, no man could know where he stood or by what law he was governed. Is the citizens of South Carolina, of Georgia and of Alabama to bring the laws of those States with him when he comes amongst us? And when we go to South Carolina or to Georgia are we to carry with us the laws of Pennsylvania? Such a state of things would breed unutterable confusion. For instance, in England there exists a state (and I ask the pardon of the ladies for referring to it) which gives to the husband the right to inflict personal chastisement upon his wife.

"Now, your honour, suppose a man and his wife lawfully joined in matrimony in England to come among us, does the husband bring with him a right to chastise his wife? Again, in France, children do not become of age until they arrive at that of twenty-five. Suppose a youth to have been bound to an apprenticeship in France; during the period of his minority his master brings him to this country voluntarily, I ask you, sir, if that apprentice can be held to service among us after he arrives at the age of twenty-one years? The answer is not difficult, and the same rule applies to the case of slaves brought voluntarily from other States by their masters into this.

"This being so, and there being no plausible ground for pretending that the Federal Court had any authority whatever to act in the matter, let us look for a moment at the power which it has usurped and the wrongs which it has done. It has caused a man to be brought before it, and, with scarcely a shadow of a hearing, has caused him to be thrown into prison without bail or mainprize.

"Show me that the United States Government is to undertake to sap the foundations of your institutions in this manner—to issue unwarranted process, and to commit for a contempt of process so issued, and finally, to try issues of fact in that summary manner, and I assure you that the last chapter of your State's history is written and the book closed, and it is fully time that it should be. But I trust that that time has not yet come, and that the decision of your honours in this case will avert the hour.

"Your honour has said this morning that if the United States Court had no jurisdiction you would grant the writ.

"Now, the United States Supreme Court cannot review this case upon a writ of error. No appeal lies to the United States Circuit Court, and who are we to appeal to but to this tribunal. Mr. Williamson is surely not to be permitted to lie in prison for life because, through ignorance or from lack of presence of mind, he did not object to this want of jurisdiction upon the return of the *habeas corpus*. Mr. Williamson was hustled into prison in a most summary manner. He knew nothing of the writ until about two o'clock in the morning, and at ten was brought before the United States Judge.

"Is he to suffer for life because in that brief period of time he did not think to object to the Court's jurisdiction.

"Finally, your honours, the point I take is this, that this Court must take the record as it finds it—there appears upon that record a full and complete return to the writ, and on that ground we are entitled to the writ for which we ask.

Let us suppose that these negroes had been fugitives from service. Even that would not have given jurisdiction to the United States Court. The Fugitive Slave law provides that if a man assists in rescuing a slave from his master, he shall be indicted in the District Court of the United States, and *tried by a jury*, and if found guilty he is to be punished by imprisonment for a limited and fixed period. It does not provide that the man is to be brought before a Judge of the District Court by service on him of a writ of *habeas corpus*, to be tried summarily and imprisoned for life, at the mercy of that Judge.

"Therefore, upon these grounds and for these reasons, we ask of your honours that a writ of *habeas corpus* be granted as prayed for in the petition of Passmore Williamson, presented on Monday last to this Court. And as that time is near at hand when the deepest feelings of a man's nature prompt a desire in him to be with his family, and when that family most need the presence and assistance of their head, I trust (without presuming, however, to dictate to this honourable Court) that your honours will give a speedy decision in this matter, and that, on the granting of the writ, your honours will name an early day for its return, and for hearing argument upon what shall be done with it."

Mr. Meredith resumed his seat, having held the undivided and profound attention of his large audience and of the Court for a little more than an hour. No mere report of his speech can convey to the reader any impression of the fervour of his manner or the graces of oratory which accompanied its delivery. At its conclusion, the Court adjourned for the term, without announcing any probable period for the delivery of an opinion on the matter.

THE BLACK LAWS OF ILLINOIS.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

ALBANY, Whiteside Co., Ill., July 16, 1855.

We have recently had a practical illustration of the operation of the Black Laws of this State, which still disgrace our statute books, and which our last Legislature, although a great improvement upon some of the former Legislatures, had neither heroism nor virtue sufficient to repeal.

Two orphan Indian children are living here, against whom a vile, unprincipled boy has for a long time held a particular spite. A few days ago he got up a quarrel with one of the children, and swore he would shoot him. Accordingly he ran into a house where his gun was kept, and, having obtained it, came out and levelled it at the breast of the Indian, who, in the effort to push the muzzle aside, received the entire charge in his hand. He is crippled for life. The white boy was arrested, but, upon the trial, it was discovered that "coloured persons" are not permitted to give testimony in courts of justice; and there being no white witnesses, the culprit was discharged. He now threatens to kill the Indian girl, and very likely may keep his word. If he can manage to do it when no white person is present, of course he will escape punishment.

VIATOR.

HUMBOLDT ON AMERICAN SLAVERY.—"An American in Germany," who lately visited the great and good Humboldt, writes to the *Tribune*, as follows:

"This noble and venerable man, though now some years beyond four score, still retains a lively interest in the progress of our country. To every American whom he meets he speaks of his friends, Jefferson and Gallatin, and laments the change in the question of slavery which has come over our Government since their day. He speaks of Webster's last days with expressions of the sincerest and deepest regret; nor does he omit any opportunity to impress upon the minds of Americans the deep moral degradation in which the United States as a nation has plunged itself within the last few years. Though an intimate friend of the King, it is said (of courre *he* says nothing of this) that the subject of politics and political affairs is never spoken of between them. From the interest with which he watches the development and progress of the Republican idea of America it would seem that politics must indeed be banished from among the subjects which he can discuss with Frederick William. At his request I showed him on the map the boundaries of the new Territories, Kansas and Nebraska—his map, though recent, dating back beyond the Douglas and Pierce outrage."

"The following passage from a note written soon after reading the account of the opening of the Panama Railroad, I think may be translated for your paper without any impropriety, as a breach of the sanctity of private correspondence:

"'The sad debates which have taken place on the extension of the system of slavery have happily offered an opportunity to a few noble souls to speak words of consolation. There is no need of demanding immediately the Abolition of slavery, but of gradually introducing mitigations into the present legislation, so that the babe may no longer be sold from the breast. The claim of the President in his letter to Mr. Soulé, that he believed he had a right to conquer the Island of Cuba when a neighbouring State undertook to render its legislation more humane, appears to me to be a most barbarous one.'

"Tastes may differ, but I would rather have the honour of the approbation expressed in these lines of the noble course pursued by Seward, Sumner and Chase than the title of President, which Pierce wears, so obtained! The approval of Humboldt is worth that of all the men-stealers and women-sellers from the Potomac to the boundary of Mexico."

ANTI-SLAVERY LECTURES IN BOSTON.—Arrangements have been made for another course of anti-slavery lectures in Boston the coming winter. John G. Whittier is to write an anti-slavery poem for the course.

National Anti-Slavery Standard.

WITHOUT CONCEALMENT—WITHOUT COMPROMISE.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 1855.

☞ MEETING IN PENNSYLVANIA.—A General Anti-Slavery Meeting will be held in the ODD FELLOWS' HALL, at NORRISTOWN, on SATURDAY, the First of September, commencing at 10 o'clock, A. M.

The Meeting will organize and proceed to business as soon after the hour for assembling as practicable, and will continue in session, with proper recesses for dinner and tea, till 10 o'clock in the evening.

Subjects of the greatest importance will claim the consideration of the meeting. The outrage committed by Judge Kane upon the person of Passmore Williamson, and the gross doctrines advanced by that functionary and others, to justify the enormity, will undoubtedly receive particular attention.

Among the speakers who will be present at the meeting, may be mentioned the names of A. T. FOSS, of New Hampshire, who will commence at that time a lecturing tour in this State, SAMUEL AARON, Rev. MR. CHENEY, ROBERT PURVIS, LUCRETIA MOTT, MARY GREW, THOMAS WHITSON, Rev. MR. WILSON, and Rev. MR. WILLIAMSON.

The meeting is intended not merely for the people of Norristown, but for others at a distance. It is expected that the Abolitionists of Bucks, Delaware, Chester and Lancaster Counties, and of the City of Philadelphia, will turn out in liberal numbers.

J. M. MCKIM, Cor. Sec'y
Pa. A. S. Society.

AD HOMINEM.

REV. ROBERT J. BRECKINRIDGE, of Kentucky, has lately replied to Mr. Sumner's Niblo's Theatre speech, by a letter, which appeared, a short time since, in our columns. Mr. Sumner may or may not be attracted by the forms of courtesy that thinly cover the fierce and truculent character of this letter to reply. But such a controversy is no private property. Whenever the spirit of Slavery assumes speech, and undertakes to vindicate its devilish theories by argument, it concerns the friends of progress and humanity to confute its sophistries and cover its flimsy pretences with confusion.

This, in one sentence, is what Mr. Breckinridge considers the substance of his "whole thought touching the madness of the times about this whole question of negro slavery": "*There we are, a great people, with a glorious mission set before us—more than twenty million of us—with whose destiny the destiny of three or four millions of blacks is fearfully combined. But the madness is, that every seven white Americans must needs cut each other's throats concerning the fate of one black African!*"

Sir, what do you mean by this? How do you connect the purposes and principles of the Abolitionists, now too well known, by repeated declarations and reiterations, through public speech and the press, to be misunderstood, with the cutting of white or of black throats? Have the Abolitionists armed or drilled themselves; have they threatened or whispered of war or violence? Is a body of men, from the first, under the control of ultra peace men and women, suddenly to become a band of invaders and warriors? Point to the most excited appeal that the ardour of a twenty years' discussion has provoked, and find, if you can, the first word of menace, of warfare and attack. But we do not ask these questions because we mistake your meaning. You are perfectly serious in contemplating a cutting of throats. You mean to be active and not passive in this violence. We know what you mean when you speak of "*grape and canister, cold steel and stricken battle*"—of "*a million of armed men, not waiting for us, but seeking us on the soil where we suppose no danger will ever come.*" You mean *murder*.

Let us, for the occasion, personate in you the three hundred thousand slaveholders, whose mouth-piece you make yourself. Let us stand near the cage, where law and fear, and the impotent cowardice of evil, restrain you, and interpret the insane howlings

DEATH OF THE HON. ABBOTT LAWRENCE.

Our readers are generally aware of the death of this eminent gentleman, which took place at Boston on Saturday the 18th instant. As his illness had been protracted and but slight hope entertained of his life for several weeks, no surprise could be felt at the announcement of his decease. But the fact of the death of a man who has been so prominently connected with the history of the country for the last twenty years, is one that cannot but arrest attention and recall the more salient points of his career. Mr. Lawrence was an enterprising and successful merchant, who, at the time when Domestic Manufactures began to attract attention, saw the capabilities of this new branch of business and by directing his energies towards its development, connected with his mercantile transactions, acquired a princely fortune. Had this been all, he would have deserved and received but a passing notice, such as eminence in those virtues which are emphatically their own reward, demands of the press and the people. But Mr. Lawrence's success as a merchant and manufacturer was the means of introducing him into public life, and what he has done, or hindered, as a public man, is the common property as it is the common interest of all. He had at one time a great and prevailing influence over the New England Whigs, and so over the counsels and actions of that once powerful, though now paralytic if not dead, party throughout the country. Whether that influence was used for the highest good of the country is a question open to all opinions.

Mr. Lawrence's talents as a man of affairs must have been great, for no man can make and manage a great business and a vast estate without extraordinary abilities. But his public career does not seem to have shown that they were of an order capable of grasping and disposing of the great questions he had to encounter. The character of his mind seems to have been eminently commercial. He looked at public affairs more as a merchant from his counting-room than as a Statesman from his closet. Very naturally, from his education and pursuits, he put an over-value on material results and estimated the character of public events by the influence they were likely to have on the balance of the ledger at the end of the year. He was virtually sent to Congress to watch over and promote the manufacturing interests of the country, with which his own were so closely connected. The question of a Protective Tariff was then a living one, and Mr. Lawrence has done his share by his voice and pen and purse to keep it alive. But either the spirit of the age or the natural antipathy of the Slaveholders to whatever seemed likely to benefit the North exclusively, has disposed of it for long years and has left to its partisans only the indirect helping of a Revenue Tariff, and the poor consolation of making or keeping the expenses of the Government at as high a point as possible to secure it from reduction. That Mr. Lawrence honestly believed the stimulation of manufacturers to be the true policy of the country, as well as the one that answered his own purposes best, we are ready to believe. Whether these opinions, so fast becoming obsolete in the growing light of political economy and experience, indicated a high order of mind on the part of one maintaining them, is a question which all can settle for themselves.

It was, however, at the time of the impending Annexation of Texas that Mr. Lawrence showed himself unequal to the emergency that met him face to face. The plot for that *coup d' état* had been exposed by John Quincy Adams and the other Northern and Western members of Congress. They had warned the people of what was inevitable, if they did not rally to the rescue. The public mind was strongly stirred, though it had been the policy of the Whig as well as of the Democratic papers to allay alarm and excitement as to the Annexation, as a crime so enormous as to be an impossibility. But the people looked around for leaders. In the North, generally, and especially in Massachusetts, the Gibralter of Whiggism, they looked to the Whigs as the men the crises called for. Mr. Webster came on from Washington earnestly desirous of distinguishing himself as the champion of the North, if he could only be backed by the men who had always stood behind him. At his suggestion the Anti-Texas Convention was called in the winter of 1844–5. He wrote the Address. The great Whigs were earnestly entreated to come in to the Movement. But they coldly stood back. Instead of helping to fan the flame, they threw cold water on it. Mr. Lawrence was never more influential in his party and in his region than at that time, and when he was adjured to put himself by the side of the uncompromising enemies of that fatal measure, he refused, saying, that resistance to it "would be attended with bad results!" Mr. Nathan Appleton pronounced it to be "too late!" So the task of resisting the Admission of Texas was left to a handful of men, chiefly Whigs, who were virtually read out of their party at the time and soon driven formally to leave it. Mr. Lawrence assumed a fearful responsibility, and he must be held largely accountable for the deplorable consequences that have followed.

That was the cardinal moment on which the destiny of the nation turned. What a difference would it not have made in our later history had a successful stand been made at that time! And a resolute stand would have been successful. The slaveholders were not as confident then of the chronic doughfacedness of the North as they are now. Had a single State made it clear that it would not submit to the usurpation; but that it was ready to resist even to revolution, and they would have stayed their hands. And Massachusetts only wanted lead to organize such a determined resistance. But the government was at that time eminently a *Plousiocracy*, or rule of rich men, and of men not of the metal of which the Hancocks and Bowdoins of seventy years before were made. They denounced a determined and unmistakable resistance to the aggressions of tyranny as "too late!" and as leading to "bad results!" The gap in the dyke was left unguarded and the tide rushed in which has carried everything before it ever since. Had the flood been stayed then we should have had no Mexican War, no new Territory torn from Mexico for Slavery, no Fugitive Slave Bill, no repeal of the Missouri Compromise, no Slave-invasion of Kansas. The black and bloody pages of our history would not have been written. General Taylor might have been alive and unheard of as a frontier Colonel of Infantry, and Daniel Webster might have still lived a mightier Senator than his flatterers ever feigned him. He would then have found that there was a North. With his heart full of contempt of the party with which he had always acted, he would not have thrown himself, in the despair of his old age, at the feet of the Slaveholders as the only men with a cause to maintain and rewards to bestow. With his dying hand, too, he would not have dealt a deadly blow at the party which had always sustained him in public life and in private, and Mr. Lawrence would not have lived to see that party so proud and defiant ten years ago in Massachusetts and of which his word was law, dashed to pieces and ground to powder, so that no political microscope is strong enough to detect its particles in their infinitesimal comminution.

Mr. Lawrence in private life was of an irreproachable character, of kind and conciliatory manners, of a charitable heart and an open and generous hand. Nor do we rank him with the worst class of politicians. We believe that he looked upon the conduct of Mr. Webster in 1850 and the crimes he helped to organize, as the great mass of men now regard them, and we trust that no temptation could have bent his personal integrity, much as he loved public life and political honours, to pay that price of infamy for the hope or the certainty of the highest prize that tempting villany could present. Nor do we suppose that he would admit that all this progeny of evil sprung from what he did or refused to do when Texas was thundering at the gates of the Capital. We believe, however, that the sequence was as inevitable as the connection of any links that the most iron logic ever forged. We do not suppose that he saw the beginning from the end or deliberately planned the mischiefs which the timid, if not selfish, counsels of the Whig Party at that fearful crisis occasioned. He and they builded *worse* than they knew. His misfortune was that he was promoted beyond his capacity—he was given a command he was incompetent to fill. Taken from the affairs of business, from the manipulation of capital, the keen pursuit, and liberal and hospitable dispensation of wealth, for all which no man was better fitted, he assumed or had thrust upon him political influence at the very most critical moment of our history. He either lacked discernment to perceive, or nerve to perform, what the Time demanded. And for this we and Posterity will justly hold him accountable. His motives he can plead at the Bar of that Tribunal to which he has gone to render his Account. God looketh on the heart; Man on the outward appearance only. What men do, we see, and by that alone can we judge them. When an action is attended by consequences deeply affecting the dearest interests of men and which reach far into the Future, mankind wisely holds the actor in a perpetual remembrance. Nor does this stern Memory refuse to dwell with the purest Charity. To Forgive is Wisdom; to Forget is Folly. It is by Remembering, only, that men achieve the progressions which is their task on earth.

KANSAS LEGISLATION.

The body which calls itself the Kansas Legislature is still in session, as busy "as the devil in a gale of wind," and with a like good will and purpose, if we judge merely from the last specimen of its attempt at law-making, which we publish below. This act has really passed the Lower House, *unanimously*, and there is no reason, that we know of, to doubt that it will, for a time, at least, become the law of the land. Nor is there any room to doubt that it will be rigidly enforced. On this point we have substantial evidence in the proceedings of a late meeting at Atchison, a report of which, from the *Squatter Sovereign*, may be found upon our first page. A Mr. Kelley, it seems, had presumed to express openly his disapprobation of slavery; thereupon a pro-slavery ruffian fell upon, and nearly killed him; a public meeting is called to express its admiration of that act; Thomason, the aggressor, is recognised as a hero, and hailed as a public benefactor; sentence of banishment is passed against Kelley, and everybody in the community is called upon to approve of the action of the meeting, under a penalty of being dealt with in a similar way. All this is merely an anticipation of the act of the Legislature. The people will execute their own laws, without waiting for the slow action of legal process. Even Judge Kane, were he Chief Justice of the Territory, as he ought to be, would hardly satisfy the popular impatience in his ardent desire to assert the supremacy of the law by hanging all the Abolitionists, and imprisoning for contempt, for life, all who could not be proved to be such, and should plead not guilty of the charge against them. There will be no difficulty, however, in procuring a conviction under so carefully constructed and ingenious an act. To take a Bible, the Declaration of Independence, a copy of Spark's Washington, or one of Jefferson's "Notes," or, indeed, almost any popular and standard work, except it be some of Harper's expurgated editions, or the publications of the American Society, is a penal offence, and will subject the offender to several years of discipline in the Penitentiary. The only safe way will be to carry no books at all; and immigrants must look to the lining of their old-fashioned trunks, and be careful to carry no newspaper parcels. Indeed, where an abstract belief in regard to the system of slavery involves so tremendous a penalty, it will hardly be safe for a man to enter the Territory with a tongue in his mouth, for a very simple question may entrap the unwary traveller into a confession of open criminality. One hardly knows, in short, which most, in such a law, to admire, its absurdity or its atrocity. It is as follows:

AN ACT TO PUNISH OFFENCES AGAINST SLAVE PROPERTY.

Section 1. Every person, bond or free, convicted of raising a rebellion of slaves, free negroes or mulattoes—shall suffer death.

Sec. 2. Every free person who shall aid in any rebellion of slaves, &c., or do any overt act in furtherance thereof—shall suffer death.

Sec. 3. If any free person shall, by speaking, writing, or printing, advise, induce, &c., any slave to rebel, conspire against, or murder any citizen of Kansas, or shall import or aid in importing such documents, he shall suffer death.

Sec. 4. If any person shall entice, decoy or carry out of Kansas any slave belonging to another, with intent to deprive the owner thereof of the services of such slave, or procure the freedom of such slave, he shall suffer death, or be imprisoned at hard labour for not less than ten years.

Sec. 5. If any person shall assist in enticing, &c. (as above)—shall suffer death or be imprisoned at hard labour for not less than ten years.

Sec. 6. If any person shall entice or carry away out of any State or Territory of the United States, any slave * * * * and shall bring such slave into this Territory, &c., * * * he shall suffer death, or be imprisoned at hard labour for not less than ten years.

Sec. 7. If any person shall entice any slave to escape from the service of his master or owner * * * or shall aid any slave in escaping * * * he shall be imprisoned at hard labour for not less than five years.

Sec. 8. If any person in this Territory shall aid or harbour any escaped slave from another State * * * such person shall be punished in like manner as if such slave had escaped from his master in this Territory.

Sec. 9. If any person shall resist any officer while attempting to arrest any slave that may have escaped * * * or shall rescue such slave, or aid such slave to escape from the officer—the person so offending shall be imprisoned at hard labour for not less than two years.

Sec. 10. If any marshal, sheriff or constable, or the deputy of any such officer, shall, when required, refuse to aid or assist in the arrest or capture of any slave that may have escaped, such officer shall be fined not less than $100, or more than $500.

Sec. 11. If any person print, write, introduce into, publish or circulate, or cause to be circulated, or shall knowingly aid or assist in bringing into, printing, publish, or circulating within this Territory, any book, paper, &c., containing any statements, doctrines, &c., calculated to produce a disaffection among the slaves of this Territory—he shall be punished by imprisonment at hard labour for not less than five years.

☞Sec. 12. If any free person, by speaking or writing assert or maintain, *that persons have not the right to hold slaves* in the Territory, or shall introduce into Kansas, print, publish, write, circulate, or cause to be introduced into the Territory, written, printed, published or circulated in this Territory, any book, paper, magazine, pamphlet or circular, containing any denial of the rights of persons to hold slaves in this Territory, such person shall be deemed guilty of a felony, and punished by imprisonment at hard labour for a term not less than two years.

Sec. 12. No person who is conscientiously opposed to holding slaves * * * * * shall sit as a juror, on the trial of any persecution of any violation of any sections of this act.

Act to be in force after Sept. 15, 1855.

POLITICS.

Washington Hunt, formerly Governor of New York, has written a letter, in which, with worse than asinine folly, he opposes the Republican movement and avows his purpose to cling to the Whig party! Mr. Greeley replies, scattering his poor sophistry to the winds and leaving him not even a peg by which to support himself. Senator Wade, of Ohio, an eminent man in the Whig ranks as long as the party had an existence, said, the other day, at Portland, "The Whig party is not only dead but it stinks. It shows, occasionally, convulsive spasms, as is sometimes exhibited in the dead snake's tail, after head and body are buried." Ex-Governor Hunt's letter illustrates this last remark.

——Hon. Nathaniel P. Banks, M. C., of Massachusetts, made a pretty bold speech at the Republican Convention in Portland the other day—bold, we mean, for a politician and an ambitious Democrat, who has been very slow in breaking the party trammels. He aspires to the Speakership of the United States House of Representatives, and it has been shrewdly suspected that he broke his engagement to lecture in New York and Boston last winter, in order to avoid the necessity of saying what might perchance have damaged his political prospects. He seems, at last, to have made up his mind as to the way the political cat is likely to jump, and, his tongue being loosed, he now talks quite bravely. He said, in his Portland speech, that "he loved the Union; but if it was to have for its great object only the perpetuation, propagation and maintenance of chattel slavery, it cannot, and, he was free to say, it ought not to stand." He also said that, "he regarded the cause of human liberty as in imminent peril; and meant hereafter to take a more active part in the contest for freedom than he had hitherto done."

——The Republican Convention in Portland was a very large and enthusiastic assemblage. The *Advertiser* says: "The best judges estimate that from 10,000 to 12,000 citizens were assembled in our city to exchange greetings, give and receive encouragement and to draw the animating ties of common purpose closer and closer together. Rarely, if ever, has such a popular assemblage been witnessed in our State. No efforts were made to drum it up—none were needed; and if they had been, none would have been effectual to such a demonstration. No, it was the spontaneous work of the people, stirred by their own mighty impulses, and directed by their own sovereign reason to this eminently fit and effective method of giving their opinions to the world." The speakers on the occasion were ex-Gov. Kent, Hon. B. F. Wade, of Ohio, ex-Gov. Cleveland, of Ct., Hon. Israel Washburn, Hon. John P. Hale and others.

——Hon. Benjamin F. Butler (Gen. Jackson's United States Attorney General), one of the leaders of the Soft Democrats of New York, is out in favour of the Republican Convention, he says; "I have rejoiced and will rejoice in every demonstration of the popular sentiment in the free States against the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, and in favour of the restoration of that ordinance of freedom. The injustice and iniquity of that repeal should never be forgiven, nor should the people of the free States rest satisfied with anything short of its renewal. If it cannot be restored in form to the statute book, it must be reestablished in fact by the perpetual exclusion of the Territory originally embraced in it from admission into the Union, except in the character and with the attribute of free States." Mr. Butler no doubt expresses the sentiments of a large portion of the Democracy of this State, and his letter is a sign of the success of the fusion movement in this quarter.

Our Philadelphia Correspondence.

Philadelphia, August 20.

Another week has passed, and Passmore Williamson is still in prison. How long he is to remain there is, as much as ever, a matter of conjecture.

Another attempt was made, last week, to procure the intervention of the Supreme Court of the State for his liberation. In the former effort, Chief Justice Lewis alone was applied to; from him a *habeas corpus* was requested, but was not very strenuously insisted upon. The request was refused, in a written decision, which, I believe, you published. The reasons given were weak and unsatisfactory, and the counsel for the prisoner resolved to go before the Court in banc, and demand the privileges of the writ as a matter of right. Consequently, on Monday last, Messrs. Gilpin and Hopper appeared before the Court in Bedford and presented, in the form of a printed document, a petition from Mr. Williamson, asking, not as a favour, but as a matter of right, that a writ of *habeas corpus* should be issued according to the act of Assembly in such case made and provided, and directed to the keeper of the prison, commanding him to bring before the Court the body of the petitioner to do and abide as might be directed. The Court required argument on the petition, and Thursday, the 10th, being fixed for that purpose, Mr. Meredith, of this city, the senior counsel for the prisoner, went on to Bedford to argue the question. He was accompanied by Mr. Thomas Williamson, the father of the prisoner, and by several reporters for the Philadelphia and New York papers.

At the appointed time the case came up and was opened by Mr. Gilpin in a speech of an hours length, which is reported to have been "replete with learning and sound reasoning." He was followed by Mr. Meredith, who held the Court and spectators in rivetted attention for upwards of an hour. Mr. Meredith enjoys the reputation of being the ablest lawyer at the Philadelphia bar. He has taken a deep interest in this case from the beginning, both from feelings of personal regard for his client and of solicitude for the principles of public importance which are involved in its decision; and, this fact being known, much was expected from him in his effort before the Court. The expectation, it seems, from the report of those who were present and from a brief synopsis we have seen of the argument, has not, thus far, been disappointed; but, on the contrary, is likely to be fully realized. A full report of the speech is to appear, to-morrow morning, in the *North American*, and, before this will have had time to be published, will, doubtless, be in the hands of most of your readers.

The Court, after hearing the argument of counsel, conferred together, but came to no decision. They adjourned to meet in Sunbury on the 4th of October. When they will conclude upon an answer to the petition—whether this week, or next, or not until they meet again in October—no one knows. Their reply, when interrogated upon the subject, was that they would take time to consult the authorities which had been cited; but how long that will require, or to what conclusion it will bring them, is at present a matter only of conjecture. Mr. Williamson, senior, thinks they will decide soon, and that the answer will be favourable. Others, however, equally entitled to a judgment in the case, are not of the same opinion. They hope for nothing in the way of favourable action on the part of the Court. They think, and in this I fully agree with them, that the appeal should be taken to the people; that, without waiting for the decision of any Court, the case should be presented to the public; that town meetings and county meetings should be held all over the State, and that honest men and women of all parties and classes should have an opportunity of passing their judgment on this outrage. In the money-circles of this commercial centre, where cotton is king, and where all questions are settled by a reference to the effect on trade, the feeling that prevails is one of sympathy with the slaveholder, and of indifference, if not approbation, of the outrage committed by Judge Kane; but the honest and unbiassed persons of this community, and, it is believed, the great mass of the people outside of this community, heartily condemn and execrate Judge Kane's procedure, and, if opportunity were offered, would gladly make a public record of their disapprobation. Let, then, such opportunity be afforded. Let public meetings be held, and let the people who hate oppression and despise tyranny, and who value their home-bred rights, speak out upon this subject. Their voice will be more potent with those who keep Passmore Williamson in prison than all the arguments of the ablest counsel. In fact, this course should be pursued without any reference to its effect upon the case of Mr. Williamson. It is due to ourselves as Pennsylvanians and as men having rights. In the person of Passmore Williamson every citizen of Pennsylvania is injured. The injustice done to him is an outrage offered to us all. The people of Pennsylvania need new safeguards to their personal liberty, and it is time that steps should be taken to procure them. Let public meetings be called, and let the people be invited to consider the matter.

I have heard to-day that Mr. Williamson's youngest child is quite ill, and that this circumstance, in addition to her other trials, is having a very bad effect upon Mrs. Williamson. Her physician is very solicitous about her, and urges the adoption of some special measures, on her account, for Mr. Williamson's enlargement. Whether anything will be done or not, I cannot tell. It is a severe trial to be put to, but I am quite sure that it will not be sufficient to induce Passmore Williamson to bend before Judge Kane, or sue to him for mercy. When Mr. Williamson comes out of jail, he will come out erect, as a man, and by virtue of his right; and not as a slave, by the favour of his master, or as a culprit, indebted to the clemency of his judge.

The meeting at Norristown is to be held on the 1st proximo, and not on the 30th inst., as stated in my last. It was found, on consultation, that the latter day would probably best suit the greatest number of our friends. It was hoped that Charles C. Burleigh, who will be in the neighbourhood, would be at the meeting, but I learn that an engagement elsewhere (at a Temperance meeting at the Trappe) will probably prevent us having the pleasure of his presence. He will be at Norristown, however, on Sunday, the 2d of the month, when all who live near enough may have the privilege of hearing him. M.

Philadelphia, Aug. 21.

I heard a compliment paid to The Standard, the other day, which pleased me very much, and which, I think, with all due deference to your modesty, should be published. I was delivering a lecture at Mullica Hill, N. J., and, at the close of my remarks, took occasion to advise the people to subscribe for your paper. I commended it in pretty strong terms; and when I was done, a gentleman rose in the audience and spoke in substance, and, as far as I can recollect, in words, as follows:

"I cannot forbear an expression of my hearty assent to the remarks which have been made in favour of the *Anti-Slavery Standard*. I am a subscriber to various newspapers. I take, of course, a County paper; that we all find indispensable. I take also the *Saturday Evening Post*, and that is always a welcome visiter in my family. I am a subscriber, and have been from the beginning, to the *National Era*; it is a paper which I highly value and which I have great satisfaction in reading. I take also the *Dollar Newspaper*, and in it I find much that is instructive. I take, beside these, a Temperance paper, published in Trenton, which I regard as a spirited and useful publication. *But I frankly say, that I would rather be without them all than dispense with the Anti-Slavery Standard.* It is an earnest paper; there is no trifling in it. It is an impartial paper, and gives both sides of the question. For these reasons I fully unite in the recommendation to all persons here to subscribe to it."

This struck me as a very discriminating, impartial and well-considered testimony to the character of your paper, and you will oblige me if you will let it go into print.

I heard another testimony of the same character, only stronger, and from a similar source; that is from one whose views on certain mooted points are not in accordance with those advocated in the paper. The testifier was an anti-slavery politician, a literary man, an editor and an author. He is now in a lucrative office, under one of our State Governments. He said to me, about three months ago, "The *National Anti-Slavery Standard* I regard as one of the best papers published. I speak of it mainly in a literary point of view. There is no other paper among all my exchanges which I read with so much pleasure—not excepting the *National Era*, with which I agree in doctrine—as the *Anti-Slavery Standard*." This from a Liberty Party man and a New Organizationist, I regard as very strong testimony.

I am happy to say that the prevailing opinion among those who read the paper in this region does not differ materially from that expressed by the persons here referred to. It is every day becoming more highly appreciated, and it may be safely said that those who like the paper least are they who know the least about it.

Increased solicitude is felt for Mrs. Williamson, particularly on the part of her female friends. The "august martyrdom of maternity" which you know was for some time imminent, seems likely to be precipitated by her recent trials. Both her children are now sick, though the one who was most seriously ill, is, I am happy to say, much better. The absence of her husband at this critical juncture, is a trial to her, which requires all her fortitude to bear with calmness.

A friend has put into my hands an old Blue Book, for the year 1833, with the following passage marked. I copy it as containing matter of some import under the present circumstances:

COMMISSIONERS *under the Convention with France, concluded July 4th*, 1831.

Names and Office.	Where employed.	Where born.	Compensation.
George W. Campbell	Washington	Tennessee	$3,000
John *K. Kane*	"	Pennsylvania	3,000
Romulus M. Saunders	"	North Carolina	3,000
J. E. Frost, Secretary	"	Dist. Columbia	2,000
J .H. Wheeler, Clerk	"	North Carolina	1,500

I had heard that Judge Kane and Mr. Wheeler were personal friends; this passage in the Blue Book shows the probable time and circumstance from which this friendship took its date. It shows also that Judge Kane is an old beneficiary of the Federal Government. At least 22 years ago he was in the receipt of $3,000 a year from the Treasury at Washington, and how much he received before that time, and what the aggregate would be if all were summed up, of what he and his family have received from the Federal coffers since, I have no means of knowing precisely; but anyone who will reflect for a moment will see that it would reach an enormous sum.

The trial of the men indicted for Assault and Battery upon Col. Wheeler, and Riot and Incitement to Riot, viz.: William Curtis, J. S. Ballard, Jas. Martin, Isaiah, Moore, James Braddock, Passmore Williamson and Wm. Still, is fixed for next Monday. Passmore Williamson, I presume, will not be tried with the rest. Charles Gibbons, Esq., will act as counsel for William Still, and Wm. S. Price and Wm. Birney, Esqrs., for the others. This case will probably occupy two or three days, and will be one of much interest to all classes.

Tidings have been received here, to-day, of the death of Martha Hanway, wife of Castner Hanway, who was imprisoned, under the charge of Judge Kane, for the alleged crime of Treason. Mrs. Hanway had been ill for about three weeks, though the fact is, her health has been delicate ever since the incarceration of her husband. Her system received a shock at that time, from which it is said never to have recovered. M.

MORE ANNEXATION.

According to a correspondent of the *Tribune*, a portion of whose letter we quote below, a new Republic is to be created out of a portion of Mexico now in a state of revolution. And should this revolution succeed, as probably it will by American aid, the next step will be, of course, a re-annexation of the Territory, with the ultimate purpose of creating one, or more, slave States. The South never forgets herself. Will the North ever remember the past and consider the future? Of the statements of the *Tribune's* correspondent, there can be no reasonable doubt. A private letter from a gentleman in Western Texas has been handed to us which confirms them in every particular. The *Tribune* writer says:

"But what think you of the project of the new Republic of Sierra Madre? You need not laugh; it is a serious matter. Already diplomatic overtures have been made to the incipient Republic by the neighbouring Texan nation. The prosperity of Western Texas is seriously retarded by the facilities for escape afforded to negroes on this frontier. Once in Mexico, they are free. This prevents men who own property in slaves from emigrating to Texas, and is a continual drain upon those already there. The rich planters, therefore, in the neighbourhood of San Antonio, and other afflicted portions of that Independency, have sent an agent to Vidaurri with the proposition that if he will make a treaty guaranteeing the surrender of all fugitive slaves on this side, they, in return, will not only reciprocate the humane act by returning all persons who escape to Texas, but will place one thousand men at the disposal of Vidaurri, equipped and officered in the same manner as the regular troops of the United States—all the expenses of this foreign legion to be borne by the Texans until they arrive at any point that Vidaurri may designate. With this view, $200,000 have already been subscribed, and the principals in the affair pledge their honour for the good faith and discipline of the troops so raised. The agent passed through here last week to see Vidaurri, and is now with him at Saltillo. Of the sincerity and earnestness of the Texans there can be no doubt. Their agent is instructed to assure his Excellency that no fillibustering is intended; that the proposition comes from solid men; and that the troops will be obedient and return to Texas whenever he chooses to dispense with their services. How the General will regard this novel proposition remains to be seen. I think the feeling among Mexicans toward Texans is decidedly adverse to such a harmonious and agreeable settlement of internal difficulties. In any event it is not to be supposed that the United States would care to provoke the ire of Texas by any untimely interference in her national concerns. To be sure the Constitution of the United States confers on the Federal Government alone the right to make treaties with foreign powers; and I even doubt if that Government will ever be a party to a treaty that contemplates the extradition of a man guilty only of the crime of being in debt; but, then, the United States is not Texas, and in disputed matters heretofore we have seen who came out second best. It is improbable that Vidaurri will disregard the sentiment of his countrymen on so important a matter, and that is decidedly hostile to the interference of foreigners, particularly as regards their internecine feuds. But we shall see."

Rev. A. T. Foss.—We congratulate our Pennsylvania friends that they have secured, for a season, the services of the Rev. Mr. Foss, as a lecturer. His labours, we think, will be peculiarly acceptable in that community. He is thoroughly familiar with the anti-slavery movement in all its phases, and ready, at a moment's warning, to meet the ablest opponent. Clear and forcible as a speaker, of an impressive presence, with a good deal of natural eloquence, cultivated by a long experience both in the pulpit and on the platform, he is always sure to hold his audience in close attention, so long as he speaks, and to send them away deeply sensible of the importance of his subject, and strongly moved by his appeals. His own earnestness always commands enthusiasm, and he gives to the cause he advocates the weight of the pure, unblemished character which secures him everywhere a warm personal regard.

Mr. Foss begins his labours in Pennsylvania on the 1st of September, and will continue in the State till the Annual Meeting in December. It is quite unnecessary that we should commend him to the hospitality of the Pennsylvania Abolitionists, for that he would be sure to receive as an anti-slavery lecturer, even were he far less worthy of it than he is.

A Scene.—At the celebration of the first of August in Delaware, Ohio, six slaves—a man and his wife and four little children—who had arrived in the place on that very day, were taken to the church and placed behind a screen. During the meeting, a clergyman made some eloquent and touching remarks, and then drew the curtain, not only in language, but in reality. "There," said he, "is a specimen of the fruits of the infernal system of slavery." A father, mother, and four children, who had been all their lives degraded to the condition of chattels! The audience were surprised and horror-stricken. Many eyes were filled with tears. The audience then very generously contributed money enough to pay their way to the Forest City, and sent them on their way rejoicing. This incident we find related in the *Ohio Columbian*.

Bills.—Subscribers to The Standard in the New England States will, this week, receive their bills. A prompt response is desirable. Those, particularly, who are in arrears will consider, we trust, the injustice done the Society by neglecting the payment of a small sum required of them annually to aid it in carrying on its operations. Two dollars *not* paid, when due, for the paper is not only a failure on the part of a subscriber to fulfil his part of a bargain, but it creates the necessity of abstrating two dollars—in the aggregate a great many two dollars—from other enterprises in the anti-slavery field. Will whoever finds a bill in this week's paper, give this suggestion a moment's consideration?

The Pennsylvania State Meeting.—We understand that the Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society will be held this year in December, and in the city of Philadelphia. Arrangements are in contemplation to make the gathering an attractive one. Philadelphia needs a good anti-slavery meeting, and we like the plan proposed of holding the annual gathering of the State Society in that place.

Anti-Slavery Churches in Kentucky.—A correspondent of *The Independent*, who has been visiting the field of Rev. J. G. Fee's labours in Kentucky, says:

"I would to God these churches had more knowledge and instruction in the 'doctrines of grace,' or principles of Christ. But I would the angel Gabriel might teach them. For if a cold and inhuman orthodoxy, like some I wot of, were brought to them; an orthodoxy which brawls at Christ's divinity in the creed, but ignores (practically) his humanity in the slave, these churches in spewing out the teachers would spew out the orthodoxy along with it."

Summary.

Well Dipped Toast.—The following toast was given at Biddeford, July 4th:

"The Clergy—All honour to the clergyman who follows his *Master* instead of his *Paymaster*."

An English Slaveholder.—Lord Brougham has presented a petition to the British House of Lords, praying for the removal of the present Lord High Commissioner, on the ground that he owns a plantation and slaves in Dutch Guinea.

Mike Walsh, who went out in the Atlantic on Wednesday, goes for a trip to the Crimea, through Germany and Russia. He will make the fifth Congressman in the Crimea.—*N. Y. Express.*

If the walls of Sevastopol, like those of Jericho, were to be overthrown by horns, what American would not proudly point to these representatives as the men to do it.—*Albany Atlas.*

"Sancho," said a dying planter to his slave, "for your faithful services, I mean to do you honour; I will leave it in my will that you shall be buried in my family ground." "Ah! Massa," answered the slave, "Sancho no good be buried there. Sancho rather hab de money or de freedom; besides, if the debil come in the dark to look for Massa, he make de mistake, and take dis poor nigger."

Rev. Alexander Campbell.—A paragraph has been going the rounds of the papers, and been copied into this, which states that the Rev. Alexander Campbell, of Bethany in Brooke County, died in New Orleans on the 27th ult. This is a mistake. The Reverend gentleman who died was another and a different person. Alexander Campbell of Bethany, the distinguished theologian, is not only not dead, but enjoying excellent health.—*Richmond Dispatch.*

Beauties of Slavery.—Two slaves, one a young unmarried man, and the other a young married woman, were emancipated by the will of their master, some six months since, in Virginia. He left them a house and lot and other property. A law of Virginia provides that a slave who is set free must leave the State within a year, or be sold again into slavery, the purchase money going to the State. The man has come to the North and secured his freedom; the woman, who has a husband and children in bondage, must desert them if she secures her freedom.

Rev. Frederick Frothingham, of Canada, preached an anti-slavery sermon at Rev. Mr. Hall's church in Dorchester, on Sunday, at which some twenty gentlemen and ladies were so indignant that they left the church—a pretty sure sign that the preacher was faithful. People that have been preached out of meeting a few times for their Hunkerism may be considered in a fair way. There is nothing like getting up an "irritation" for the cure of some diseases.—*Bost. Tel., 14th.*

A Good Move.—The *Worcester Spy*, Aug. 8, says, "Our enterprising townsman, Eli Thayer, leaves town this morning with the intention of proceeding to Maine for the purpose of enlisting a large company of down east lumbermen in the work of sawing boards upon Kansas river, and making the Territory a free State." A grand idea. Abundant success to the enterprise say we. The stalwart lumbermen from the forests of Maine will be just the chaps to people the banks of the Kansas River—to guard the ballot box of the new territory. A half dozen of them would whip an army of drunken cowards from Missouri, and where they are, slavery can never scatter its deadly infection.—*Northern Advocate.*

Look out for a Murderer!—The *Salisbury* (N. C.) *Watchman* has received an account of one of the most brutal murders ever heard of. It was perpetrated in the County of Yadkin, six miles north-west of Hamptonville, on Friday, the 20th ult. The name of the murderer is Christopher Robbins, commonly called "Kitt Robbins." His victim was a poor old negro man who came into his possession by marriage. He beat the old man with the butt of a wagon whip until he wore it out, then he used the axe handle (with which he also knocked down his own wife), and finally finished the old negro by pouring hot water into his ears. He left the neighbourhood on the morning of the 21st, starting in the direction of Wilkesborough; but it is believed he will try to escape by the railroad. Look out for him.

Rev. F. D. Huntington, of Boston, delivered the Phi Beta Kappa oration of Yale College. The Hartford *Religious Herald* says: "His subject was 'The Motives of the Scholar.' These were considered in the following order, Money, Fame, Love of Literature, *per se*, Philanthropy, and the Love of Christ. Finest, polished, learned, and instinct with true Christian eloquence, it held a crowded audience one and a half hours in delighted attention. The scathing sarcasm with which he exposed those who prostitute learning to the defence of wrong, for money, or popularity, met a cheering response in the audience, and if there were any doughfaces in politics, or pettifogging lawyers, who sell opinions alike against law and right, present, will not by them at least be soon forgotten."

Good!—A late *Washington Union* brings us the following cheering intelligence—the last dotting of the editor's pen before going to press:

"Abolitionism is triumphant everywhere. It moves along with the majestic tread of a conqueror. It seems to exult, for the first time [not for the first time by a long chalk!], in the prospect of the success of its accursed plans. We have already counted as secured within its grasp, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, Maine, Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Michigan, Iowa and New Hampshire. Every day presents new evidences of its magnitude."

Yes, and "night unto night shows forth" the certainty of its ultimate and complete triumph! But why didn't the editor give us New York? Does the foolish fellow suppose that proslavery hunkerism has a gullet big enough to swallow the Empire State?—*Northern Advocate.*

Southern Sensitiveness.—A correspondent of the Baltimore *Sun*, writing from Boston, says that he visited the Mt. Auburn Cemetery, and had his feelings outraged by beholding in a conspicuous place, "a monument erected to Torrey, the Abolitionist, who died in prison in Baltimore, where he had been condemned for most gross and meddlesome interference with our slaves." Would it not be advisable for the union-loving Democrats of Boston to get up a petition for the removal of the monument? "Nothing of an offensive character, which can possibly be removed, should be exhibited before our Southern brethren." Now, this monument is among the things which "can possibly be removed," and it appears that it gives offense to "our Southern brethren." If it were in the power of the editor of the Cincinnati *Enquirer* to remove the "dark stain of Abolitionism" from the cemetery, the gentleman from Baltimore would not again have his "feelings outraged."—*Cleveland Leader.*

Prize Essay.—Rev. Edward E. Hale, of Worcester, Mass., has been the successful competitor for the prize of $100, offered some time since by Mr. Boardman, minister at large at Fall River, Mass., for the best essay on the "Scriptural and Political Remedy for the present crisis of Slavery." The design of the essay was to inquire into the most rapid means of removing the curse from our soil, and the author of the essay ingeniously and earnestly maintains that the most sure and speedy way to do it is the colonization of our States and Territories by an emigration of Christian men and women! The writer states in the outset that "the object proposed is the removal of American slavery. This is, in other words, the extension of the Christian gospel over a region where it has not yet sufficient power." As to the great question, "How is the gospel to be thus extended?" the answer, he says, is in the direction of Jesus Christ himself, where he bids his disciples, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." In accomplishing this great work man is to be the active instrument—a "labourer with God," and under God's direction. God, he argues, does not save a *passive* world from its crimes and sins, where man does not rouse himself. All this looks plausible enough on paper, but if Mr. Hale thinks that the monster will be subdued or "destroyed," by the Christian church, in its present relation to the South, he will very soon find himself wofully mistaken.—*Northern Advocate.*

The English Slave Trade—A Fact for the Abolitionists.—In the petition presented by Lord Brougham to the House of Lords, last week, from the Society for the Suppression of the Slave Trade, praying that Parliament would make still further exertions for the extermination of the traffic, there was one allegation of a very remarkable character, viz., that Sir John Young, Governor of the Ionian Islands, previously Secretary for Ireland, and supposed to be on his way to a peerage, is a considerable owner, as inheritor of some Dutch Guinea plantations, of slave property. This is rather an awful revelation about one of our chief governing men, at a moment when we are nationally indignant about American institutions, the Russian serf, the oppression of Poland, and so on. We are not supposing that the quiet Sir John Young is a Legree, though the Irish papers often mentioned, when he was carrying on the Tenant Right Bill, that his sympathies were rather with the landlord class. He probably found the legacy of men and brothers awkward enough, and may be, at this moment, striving to get rid of his fellow creatures by selling them to some more proper proprietor. But such a fact should suggest to the Abolitionist school of Uncle Tommy politics to be milder in their language when they next talk of American gentlemen—who are a nation of Sir John Youngs—victims of a geographical accident.—*Liverpool Post, July* 31.

Villanies Inseparable from Slavery.—A Cincinnati correspondent of the Portage County (Ohio) *Democrat*, relates the following:

"A distinguished Kentucky lawyer, in conversation, a day or two since, gave me a couple of anecdotes which I will rehearse to you.

"In the city of Covington, opposite us, on the river, a negro

Miscellaneous Department.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

UNDER the above title, the *Quarterly Review*, just published, draws out, to use its writer's words, "a continuous line of advertisements from the newspaper press of this country since its establishment to the present time, and by so doing shows how distinctly, from its dye, the pattern of the age through which it ran is represented." The result is one of the pleasantest articles we have read for many a day.

The very first advertisement the essayist finds recalls a stirring time:

IRENODIA GRATULATORIA; An Heroick Poem; being a congratulatory panegrick for my Lord General's late return, summing up his successes in an exquisite manner.
To be sold by John Holden, in the New Exchange, London. Printed by Tho. Newcourt, 1652.

This appeared in the January number of the Parliamentary paper "Mercurius Politicus." It is evidently a piece of flattery to Cromwell upon his victories in Ireland, and might have been inserted at the instigation of the great commonwealth leader himself. * * * * And in the number for September, 1659, we find an advertisement which seems to bring us face to face with one of the brightest names in the roll of English poets:

CONSIDERATIONS touching the likeliest means to remove Hirelings out of the Church; wherein is also discours'd of Tithes, Church Fees, Church Revenues, and whether any maintenance of Ministers can be settled by Law. The author, J. M. Sold by *Lavinol Chapman*, at the Crown in Pope's Head Alley.

Runaway servants next figure largely in the same journal: "An advertisement which appears in the same paper, of the date of August 11th, 1659, gives us the first notice we have yet found of the service of negro boys in this country. From this period, however, as we shall presently show, England, at least the fashionable part of it, seems to have swarmed with young blackamoors in a greater degree than we should have imagined even from the familiar notice made of them in the pages of the *Tatler* and *Spectator*. These early negroes must have been imported from the Portuguese territories, as we did not deal in the article ourselves till the year 1680. The amusing point of the following advertisement, however, is the assurance it gives us that the Puritans "polled" their negroes as well as themselves."

A Negro boy, about nine years of age, in a gray Scarge suit, his hair cut close to his head, was lost on Tuesday last, *August* 9, at night, in *S. Nicholas* Lane, *London*. If any one can give notice of him to *Mr. Tho. Barker*, at the Sugarloaf in that Lane, they shall be well rewarded for their pains.

Advertisements relating to horse-stealing then becomes a prominent feature in these old columns, together with announcements of posts and coaches for travellers. It was long before tradesmen discovered the value of this means of proclaiming the merits of their wares, and the very first of their notices is curious enough:

That Excellent and by all Physitians approved *China* Drink called by the *Chineans Teha* by other Nations *Tay alias Tee*, is sold at the *Sultaness Head Cophe-House*, in *Sweetings* Rents, by the Royal Exchange, *London*.—*Mercurius Politicus*, September 30, 1658.

The designs of General Monk next exhibit their influence. The "Tears, Sighs, Complaints, and Prayers of the Church of England" take the place of "the sonorous titles of sturdy old Baxter's works." "J. M." again comes on the stage with his "Readie and Easie Way to establish a Free Commonwealth."—Aldermen publish their freedom from complicity in the trial of the late king. And so we pass to the Restoration. Before the king has been a month on the throne, we find an advertisement for one of his pets, "a smooth black dog, less than a greyhound," &c., more particularly described as follows, a few days later, in language which, from its pleasant raillery, seems to have come from his Majesty's own hand:

*** *We must call upon you again for a Black Dog, between a Greyhound and a Spaniel, no white about him, onely a streak on his Brest, and tayl a little bobbed. It is His Majesties own Dog, and doubtless was stoln, for the Dog was not born nor bred in England, and would never forsake his Master. Whosoever findes him may acquaint any at Whitehall, for the Dog was better known at Court than those who stole him. Will they never leave robbing his Majesty, must he not keep a Dog? This Dogs place (though better than some imagine) is the only place which nobody offers to beg.*

Hawking regains favour under the merry monarch, and Lanners, Tercel-Gentles, and Gerfalcons, are frequently advertised. Quack medicines follow, and among the mountebanks, says the reviewer: "We have yet to mention one, who might appear to some to be the greatest quack of all, and who about this time resorted to an advertisement in the newspapers to call his patients to his doors—the royal charlatan, who, touched for the evil, makes known that he is at home for the season to his people through the medium of the 'Public Intelligencer' of 1664"—

WHITEHALL, May 14, 1664. His Sacred Majesty, having declared it to be his Royal will and purpose to continue the healing of his people for the Evil during the Month of May, and then to give over till Michaelmas next, I am commanded to give notice thereof, that the people may not come up to town in the Interim and lose their labour.

The reign of footpads and highwaymen succeeds. "Whereas Mr. Herbert Jones, Attorney-at-Law in the town of Monmouth, well-known by being several years together Under-Sheriff of the same County, hath of late divers times robbed the mail coming from that town to London, &c.," a guinea's reward is offered for Mr. Jones's apprehension. The Revolution gave a great spur to advertising. We fall upon notices of those disgusting prize-fights, several of which are described by Pepys. Women entered the arena. Here is an advertisement of 1722:

CHALLENGE.—I, Elizabeth Wilkinson, of Clerkenwell, having had some words with Hannah Hyfield, and requiring satisfaction, do invite her to meet me upon the stage, and box me for three guineas; each woman holding half-a-crown in each hand, and the first woman that drops the money to lose the battle.

ANSWER.—I, Hannah Hyfield, of Newgate Market, hearing of the resoluteness of Elizabeth Wilkinson, will not fail, *God willing*, to give her more blows than words, desiring home blows, and from her no favour; she may expect a good thumping!

The half-crowns were an ingenious device to prevent scratching. Cock-fighting, bull-baiting and other "sporting" advertisements accompany these ladylike diversions. Gallantry also gives its covert intimations, as now in the second column of the *Times*, and about the middle of the last century, this department of the press begins to assume pretty much its present form. Few readers are aware of the extent to which it has now been developed. Holloway's Pills are advertised at a cost of £30,000 a year; Moses and Son spend £10,000 annually; Rowland's Macassar pays the same sum; one firm devotes £6,000 a year to beds and bedding; cod-liver oil yields £10,000; and one tailor spends £4,500. On the 29th of May, 1855, the *Times* in its ordinary sixteen pages contained 2,575 advertisements:

"Here we see a noble fleet, 129 in number, chartered for the regions of gold, for America, for India, for Africa—for every port, in fact, where cupidity, duty, or affection holds out an attraction for the British race. Another column wearies the eye with its interminable line of "Wants." Here in long and anxious row we see the modern "mop" or statute fair for hiring; 429 servants of all grades, from the genteel lady's-maid or "thorough cook," who will only condescend to accept service where two footmen are kept, to the humble scullery-maid, on that day passed their claims before us for inspection. Another column is noisy with auctioneers, 136 of whom notify their intention of poising their impatient hammers when we have favoured them with our company. Here we see a crowd of booksellers offering, hot from the press, 195 new volumes, many of which, we are assured by the appended critique, "should find a place in every gentleman's library." There are 378 houses, shops, and establishments presented to us to select from: and 144 lodging-house keepers "ladies having houses larger than they require," and medical men who own "Retreats," press forward with genteel offers of board and lodging. Education pursues her claims by the hands of no less than 144 preceptors, male and female; whilst the hair, the skin, the feet, the teeth, and the inward man are offered the kind attention of thirty six professors who possess infallible remedies for all the ills that flesh is heir to. The remainder is made up of the miscellaneous cities of tradesmen, whose voices rise from every portion of the page like the shouting of chapmen from a fair."

The reviewer has devoted considerable attention to the mysterious cipher advertisements, which often appear in the second column. "Flo" and "Cenerentola" will here see their cherished secrets laid open to the world. They contain no harm and no interest. But the following is curious:

"On Feb. 20, 1852, there appeared in the *Times* the following mysterious line:

TIG tjohw it tig jfniirvola og tig psgvw.—F. D. N.

"The general reader, doubtless, looked upon this jumble of letters with some such a puzzled air as the mastiff gives the tortoise in a very popular French bronze; but not being able to make anything out of it passed on to the more intelligible contents of the paper. A friend of ours, however, was curious and intelligent enough to extract the plain English out of it, though not without much trouble: If we take the first word of the sentence, Tig, and place under its second letter i, the one which alphabetically precedes, and treat the next letters in a similar manner, we shall have the following combination:

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Tig
hf
 e
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Reading the first letters obliquely we have the article 'The;' if we treat the second word in the same manner, the following will be the result:

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Tjohw
 injv
  mfu
   et
    s
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which, read in the same slanting way, produces the word 'Times,' and the whole sentence, thus ingeniously worked out, gives up its latent and extraordinary meaning, thus:

"THE Times is the Jeffries of the press."

We close our extract with the following curious statistics:

"It is curious to see the estimate which the different journals place upon themselves as mediums of publicity, by comparing their charges for the same advertisement. Thus the contents of the *Quarterly Review*, for January, 1855—precisely similar, as far as length is concerned, to that which the reader will see upon turning to the cover of the present number—was charged for insertion as an advertisement by the different papers as follows: *Times*, 4*s.*; *Illustrated News*, £1 8*s.*; *Morning Chronicle*, 5*s.* 6*d.*; *Morning Post*, 6*s.*; *Daily News*, 5*s.* 6*d.*; *Spectator*, 7*s.* 6*d.*; *Morning Herald*, 6*s.*; *Punch*, 15*s.*; *Observer*, 9*s.* 6*d.*; *English Churchman*, 5*s.* 6*d.*; *Examiner*, 3*s.* 6*d.*; *John Bull*, 5*s.* 6*d.*; *Athenæum*, 10*s.* 6*d.* Now, the *Times* did not "display" the advertisement as the others did, it is true, and therefore squeezed it into half the space, but with this difference, its charge was absolutely the lowest in the list, with the single exception of that of the *Examiner*. How this moderation on the part of the leading journal is to be accounted for we know not, but the apparent dearness of the *Illustrated News* meets a ready solution, and affords us an opportunity of showing how vastly the prime cost of an advertisement, during the present high price of paper especially, is augmented by a great increase of the circulation of the paper in which it appears, and what the advertiser really gets for his money. If we take the advertisement of our contents it will be found to measure about one inch in depth; it is obvious, then, that we must multiply this measure by 170,000, the number of separate copies in which it appeared. Now, 170,000 inches yields a strip of printed paper the width of a newspaper column—*upwards of two miles and three-quarters long!* Thus we have at a glance the real amount of publicity which is procurable in a great journal, and with so remarkable a statement it will be well to close our paper.—*London Inquirer.*

POEM COMPOSED IN PRISON.

If I was a Pardoner hinn a Bank,
I shouldn't be vorkin' at this ere Crank;
For me and my Pals a Gang'a the term,
Oh, don't I wish we wos called a Firm!

In that case Prigs is Bankrupts made,
Though some is in the wan conweyed;
But Juries finds they can't conwict,
And Justice's ends thereby is nick'd.

Here, you or I, we frisks a till,
And for which we gets the Crank or Mill,
It may be years to the 'ulks we goes;
It may be for hever, p'raps—who knows?

But hunto the 'ulks we never should go,
Providing we wos a Banker's Co.,
Becos of our 'avin' pick'd the locks
Of hever so many a Gent's strong box.

If a Parson trusted us with his deeds,
And we sold 'em and sack'd the hole proceeds,
That Reverend Gent would be jolly green,
But the Laws would make it all serene.

Cos why?—the case in course would be
Brought into the Court of Bankruptcy,
Vere we should only to make a clean breast,
And couldn't be tried for wot we confessed.

To quod suppose we went for debt,
And just a few months chanced to get,
Without 'ard labour bein' confined,
To which a cove might be'ave resigned.

Here am I, lagged for forty bob,
I've got seven year for that little job;
I wish it 'ad been for arf a million Poand,
And I shouldn't te turnin' this 'andle round.

—*Punch.*

SYDNEY SMITH'S WIT.

From The British Quarterly Review.

THE wit of Sydney Smith was always under the control of good taste and good feeling. It was never mischievous to him by any unseemliness, impertinence or vulgarity. Throughout his writings, so remarkable for natural flow and freedom of style, so simple and so idiomatic, you search in vain for anything slipshod, for triteness or chit-chat, for a single colloquial solecism. His style, like golden-haired Pyrrha, is always *simplex munditiis*. The brilliance of his conversation owed none of its fire to the glass. A thimbleful of wine destroyed his understanding, he said, and made him forget the number of the Muses. He sings the praises of water in a style that will make the floods in all teetotal stomachs to clap their hands.

Far other the sparkling faculty of another wit, hectic from the ruddy wine, effervescent with champagne—poor Theodore Hook—the victim of the convivial cruelties of the great, mercilessly dined to death. Some of the happiest jests of Smith were ecclesiastical. But such sallies were too professional to be profane. They seemed to rebound upon himself, or they played about his order; they certainly scorched nothing. If there was satire in them, it was directed only at hypocrisy or corruption. If he could lightly touch the terrene and external part of religion—its secularized institutions—its drowsy dignitaries, he paid lowliest obeisance (wherever he could discern it) to its heavenly spirit. He could play with the tassel of his cushion; never with the leaves of his Bible. Assuredly, of no other wit could this be said, that many persons felt flattered rather than otherwise, when singled out by him as the objects of a conversational attack.

How genial and frolicsome must that raillery have been—irradiating, never scathing—summer lightning, indeed—always directed by a delicate kindliness to something unlinked with the feelings or the pride—something that could be offered up—at which the owner could laugh as heartily as any one in the room, feeling as if some article of his, like a watch or a handkerchief, was made the subject of a feat by a master of legerdemain; as though he had unawares contributed to the common delight, and turned on, with a sudden touch, the great wit-fountain—never that he was held up as a but of scorn for the arrows of an irrepressible and universal laugh. When he was quitting London for Yorkshire, the absent and eccentric Lord Dudley said to him, "You have been laughing at me constantly, Sydney, for the last seven years, and yet in all that time you never said a single thing to me that I wished unsaid." He remarks, "This, I confess, pleased me." Doubtless—rare heart and head! A wit—and yet more beloved than feared!

In attempting a summary of the characteristics belonging to such a nature, the first place is due to that piercing sagacity for which he was so remarkable—that combination of moral qualities with intellectual acuteness which constitutes practical wisdom. His first object is to clear away encumbrances—to make "a naked circle" about the matter in dispute, so that there may be a clear view of it from every side. He goes at once to the core, never mistaking adjuncts for essentials, never deceived by fine phrases, by conventional solemnities or sentimentalities. "We must get down at once," he cries, "to the solid rock, without heeding how we disturb the turf and the flowers above."

On the American rivers, the great logs floated down get jammed up here and there; a man must be let down by a rope from the overhanging trees—find, if he can, the timber which is a kind of keystone and stops the rest—detach it—be pulled up in a twinkling, and away dash the giant trunks, shooting headlong, helter-skelter, down the stream. This delicate and perilous office Sydney Smith discharged for the dead-locked questions of his day. His treatment of a half-smothered, obfuscated topic never fails to clear and freshen it for all who come after him; it is refreshening as a shower on dusty leaves, which not only gives them moisture at the time, but, by washing clean the clogged stomata, fits the innumerable mouths on every spray for drinking in their future nourishment from the surrounding air. He drives a slippery antagonist to his last wriggle, a pompous and windy one to his last gasp, by insisting on their saying what they mean.

Whether in extracting the terror from a term meant for a bugbear, or the hue from a term designed as a cosmetic; his consummate logic is equally admirable. The rhetorician finds that his colour-box is gone; the polemic, with linstock lighted, that his powder has been damped. Sydney Smith has conquered by rendering useless weapons which had been redoubtable till he appeared. He need not himself launch a single envenomed personality, or point one deep-throated railing accusation. Those familiar with his writings will remember instances of such high service in the searching examination he institutes into the use and misuse of words like "pedantic," "simplicity," "speculative," "conscience," and many more.

The power of Sydney Smith as a light-diffuser and fallacy-detector on the grand scale was rendered the more formidable by a comprehensiveness not inferior to his discrimination—by his moderation and self-control. He never overstates his case. The argument once demolished, he does not vindictively pursue its unhappy parent. He does not take it for granted that every advocate of what is cruel or unjust must of necessity be a brute or a rogue. It is his habit to pause, even in full career, and make due allowance on every opportunity for the influence of education, of position, of routine. He never employs his perfect mastery of language—like the powders applied to dahlia-roots and hyacinth—to change the natural hue of the facts as they grow, and give to the resultant product an artificial colouring. Practical as he is, he is no cold-blooded utilitarian. Such men he ridicules as ligneous creatures, from whom, when bored with a gimlet, sawdust must come forth. His early days were unbeaten by the revolutionary fervour that kindled the contemporary youth of Coleridge, Southey and Wordsworth; nor did his age, like theirs, forsake the liberal cause. His facts were as carefully examined and set forth—his arguments as guarded and as complete—as though his only hope had lain in diligence and logic. His witty illustration hides no weak places—it is the crest of his helmed argument—the mere pennon of his spear. The sword of this Taillefer doest not deal blows less deadly because he rides out before the battle-front, tossing it in the air and catching it. So full of life is he that when he has hewn his thoughts into serviceable shape for his purpose, they sprout forth presently into unlooked for arborescent fancies—are vivacious as the acacia, which, planed into a door-post, has been known to root again and shoot out budding boughs above the threshold. He can diverge as wondrously from the established treatment of a subject as doth the tower of Pisa from the perpendicular, yet never fall; nay, as that tower may safely ring its peal of bells in an attitude menacing instant prostration, so can his strange faculty disport itself at will in posture the most hazardous, and peril no gravity save that belonging to his readers. Such ease and self-possession belong only to great strength. Great as might be the ardour with which he would defend a good thing or assail a bad one, vehemence never made him forget that there were other good things and other bad beside the one in question. He did not imagine that the universe hung on the particular controversy with which he might be at any time occupied; he kept his material in its place; he had no hobby; he was guiltless of a panacea.

His judgment of mankind was healthy, neither Utopian nor cynical. Unlike the Sultan Mahmoud, who, smiting the Indian idol with his mace, saw gush forth therefrom an incredible quantity of pearls and precious stones, Sydney Smith found image breaking anything but lucrative. But neglect and misrepresentation could not sour him. He was content to take men as we find them. If the highest motive moved them not, he thought it no shame to appeal to a lower. The skilful mariner must know not merely how a ship *might* be worked in a storm, but what the particular craft he has to manage can be brought to do—how she will "behave," as they say, in a certain crisis. This was the kind of knowledge by which he set most store in the management of men. He never enjoyed for its own sake the excitement of striving with his fellows. Some men, plunged into controversy, acquire fresh heat and life—as fire-flies are said to regain their fading lustre on being immersed in hot water. Such a man was Priestley; such was not Sydney Smith. Some worthy cause must be at stake before he will vex his soul with contention. How strongly does his dignified forbearance and large-hearted love contrast with the savage Berserker fury of Swift, or the malign grin of Voltaire, to whom Ridicule and Sarcasm were Castor and Pollux, sole guiding stars across the frothy, melancholy sea of life.

Yet there was one phase of our common nature which presented to Sydney Smith a riddle he could not read. Into the heights and depths of our spiritual being he seems never to have searched. A religious enthusiast was to him as strange and incomprehensible a creature as an *ornithorynchus paradoxus*. If he sees a man profoundly oppressed by the sense of guilt, he straightway imagines him a poor dyspeptic wretch, who thinks to please God by his tears and groans. He is right when he says that God is love; but how strangely wanting in discernment when he fails to see that it is this very love which deepens to such poignancy the consciousness of ingratitude. Faith appears to be understood by him in the mere ecclesiastical rather than in the scriptural sense—as the opinion of the seen more than the power of the unseen world. He is right when he insists on the necessity of practical preaching, of searching exhortation to the moralities of daily life, but grievously in error when he looks for genuine success apart from the motives set forth in the Gospel, and the regenerating influence of the Spirit of God. What measure of such truth he himself may finally have come to hold, we know not: far be it from us to judge him.

The complaint we urge is simply this: not that he was not religious just in our fashion, but that he denied sincerity or common sense to great numbers who were not religious in his. His injustice to evangelical religion is notorious. In contact with that hated thing, his love of mercy and of justice vanishes—his nobler self is gone, and he is Sydney Smith no more. True, he would persecute neither Methodist nor Catholic; but his charity and candour are pushed to the utmost for the one, his scorn and abhorrences are concentrated on the other. He is eager to believe that every evangelical cobbler deems it glorious to lie for the tabernacle. He can scarcely be persuaded that a Papist will deem it glorious to lie for the church. He is indignant at the power of illiterate preachers over the common people. He forgets how the order of Francis has preyed upon the mob, how the order of Dominic has hounded them on. The bad taste of Methodism disgusts him. A little reading among the works of some of those whom Rome delights to honour—the visions and meditations of some illustrious saints—the foul-mouthed utterances of the French preachers of the league, would have revealed to him sanctified puerilities, holy profanities, delirious obscenities, blood-thirsty blasphemies, in comparison with which the maddest rant of an American camp-meeting is seemliness, sobriety and sense.

The position of Sydney Smith in the Church of England it is not difficult to understand. In his view, that institution meant "a check to the conceited rashness of experimental reasoners—an adhesion to old moral landmarks—an attachment to the happiness we have gained from tried institutions greater than the expectation of that which is promised by novelty and change."

He was grieved to see it near "dying of dignity," but such he knew was the chronic disorder of all establishments. The practical energetic preaching, the activity, the education he advocated, were, alas! only to be found among the evangelicals he denounced. The Puseyite attempt at revival by priestcraft, sacraments and wax-chandlery, was quite as little to his taste. He has much reverence for principles, little for dignities. For the life of him he cannot say of his bishop, as Cob of Bobadill, "I do honour the very flea of his dog." To every clergyman, duly sensible of the proprieties, the very sneeze of a bishop should be like the sternutation of the King of Monopotania, which is greeted by shouts in the ante-chamber, shouts in the palace yard, shouts in the city streets—announced and reverberated by a thousand loyal voices; but bold recusant Sydney Smith can watch, *rectis oculis*—without awe, and without response—the convulsion of an episcopal proboscis! This provoking Spartan calls a spade a spade, and shockingly discourses of the church as it is. They accuse him of desecrating holy things. He answers as England did to Ireland in one of our old wars. The Irish had laid up their corn in a church, hoping that the sanctity of the building would preserve their stores. The English replied that the sacrilege lay with the enemy, in converting the holy place to such a purpose; and removed the grain as coolly as if the sanctuary had been a barn.

Sydney Smith maintains that, as there is no adequate payment for the money in the Church, there must be prizes for the few. His letters to Archdeacon Singleton are unanswerable exposures of a fallacious and unjust attempt at reform, by which the strong ecclesiastics would have pilfered from the weak, without appeasing, after all, the popular dissatisfaction. Most of his ecclesiastical opponents conveniently identified the pious and the comfortable.

To disturb an abuse was to assail religion. Has not Sancho the most religious objection to being drawn into discussion when guzzling among Camacho's flesh-pots? "Good, your worship," cries he, "judge of your own chivalries, and meddle not with judging of other men's fears and valours; for perhaps I am as pretty a fearer of God as any of my neighbours; and pray let me whip off the scum; for all besides is idle talk, of which we must give an account in the next world."

A most felicitous allusion exhibits in a sentence the effect of his plain speaking. "When an argument taken from real life and the actual condition of the world is brought among the shadowy discussions of ecclesiastics, it always occasions terror and dismay; it is like Æneas stepping into Charon's boat, which carried only ghosts and spirits. *Gemuit sub pondre cymba Sulitis.*"

Sydney Smith will not cloak the matter; he acknowledges that the great majority who enter the church do so having in view the good things which the church may bestow. Yet everyone so entering professes that he is moved thereto by the Holy Ghost. The bait must be there, he contends, or capital would not flow into the establishment. But what becomes of the vows upon the threshold? Hapless dilemma! what, indeed!

He judged of the Romish priesthood very much by himself. He imagined them scarcely more likely to violate truth, humanity or justice for their church, than would he for his. They had come down in the world, and he pitied them. They seemed to him the feeble shadow of a bye-gone terror. They resembled in his eyes the player in the *Spectator*, who complains so bitterly that, having once done the thunder, he is now reduced to act the ghost. They had suffered adversity, and he trusted they were the better for it. The service he rendered them was a righteous one and brave, however unworthy and incurable the subjects of the benefit. With scepticism, on the other side, he was never disposed to tamper for a moment. The irreligious spirit of the *Edinburgh* awakened his grave displeasure, and drew forth strong remonstrances to Jeffrey.

Barrow's celebrated enunciation of the varieties of wit might be completely illustrated with first-rate specimens from the writing of Sydney Smith alone. We have not another writer in our language who has united to a wit and humour so exuberant and multiform a treatment of his subject, so comprehensive, so conscientious, so philosophical—not another with like measure or the perilous faculty, so complerely preserved by heart and taste and judgment from ever injuring others by malice, or himself by folly.

Space would fail us to specify the many kinds of facetiousness with which his style abound. The humourists have always claimed the privilege of word-coining, and the royal exercise of this prerogative distinguishes, while it never disfigures, the language of Sydney Smith. This kind of originality lies on the surface, and is the first to strike every eye. Sometimes he fashions strange compounds from the homely Saxon idiom; sometimes he devises bigwig classical epithets, devised with scholarlike precision, comic from their formal gravity, so dexterously misplaced. Thus he speaks of a "lexicon-struck" boy, of "Malthus-proof" young people, of "persecution-fabricers," of "wife and daughter bishops," of "butler bishops," even of "cook and house-keeper bishops"; he describes a measure as rejected "with Percivalism and contempt"; and he enriches our mother-tongue with that serviceable hybrid "Foolometer." So when, in the academic vein, he laughs at pedants with sesquipedal words of his own, he will talk of "frugivorous children," and of "mastigophorous schoolmasters"; of "amorphous hats"; of "fugacious" or "plumigerous captains"; of "lachrymal and suspirious clergymen"; of some people who are "simious," and others who are "anserous"; he holds up, as "the "Anglophagi," the placemen who prey upon the country; and designates our September sins by the awful name of "perdricide."

A mind of such happy vivacity will, of course, make the simile and the metaphor the frequent vehicles of fun, of satire, sometimes even of argument—fine and sharp as the Italian's "dagger hid in a hair." For example: "Men of very small incomes, be it known to his lordship, have often very acute feelings; and a curate trod on feels a pang as great as when a bishop is refuted." Thus again: "To be intolerably strict and harsh to a poor curate, who is trying to earn a morsel of hard bread, and then to complain of the drudgery of reading his answers, is much like knocking a man down with a bludgeon, and then abusing him for splashing you with his blood and pestering you with his groans. It is quite monstrous that a man who inflicts eighty-seven new questions in theology upon his fellow-creatures should talk of drudgery of reading their answers."

Of the pun—that Pariah among the jests—Sydney Smith furnishes but few examples, and those, with scarcely an exception, classical.

His mock-heroics are numerous, and all good. Take this sly bit, *en passant*, at the pompous Latmized style; "Not only are Church, King and State allured by this principle of vicarious labour, but the pot-boy has a lower pot-boy, who for a small portion of the small gains of his principal, arranges, with inexhaustible sedulity, the subdivined portions of drink, and, intensely perspiring, disperses, in bright pewter, the frothy elements of joy." Who has not been convulsed by reading Peter Plymley's flatulent description of the scheme for subduing the French by stopping their medicinal supplies? "What a sublime thought—that no purge can be taken between the Weser and the Garonne—that the bustling pestal is still—the canorous mortar mute, and the bowels of mankind locked up for fourteen degrees of latitude!"

A species of wit to which Sydney Smith is much addicted, we must call the particularization of the hyperbole. When putting something impossible, or imagining something extravagant he generally contrives to give it, by a sudden turn, a peculiar adaptation to the case in hand. For instance, speaking of Mrs. Trimmer, the well-known writer of children's books, he does not simply say that he knows she would on no account wittingly have done such injustice to Mr. Lancaster; but, "if she had been aware of the extent of the mischief she was doing, she would have tossed the manuscript spelling-book in which she was engaged into the fire, rather than have done it." Thus again, any one might write: "Nothing persuade me that the antiquated superstitions of Rome are likely to resume their empire over the mind of this country." What force and freshness does our wit give to the same thought—how he makes it flash and attract all eyes by expressing it in this way:

"Tell me that the world will return again under the influence of the small-pox; that Lord Castlereagh will hereafter oppose the power of the court; that Lord Howick and Grattan will do, each of them, a mean and dishonourable action; that Lord Eldon has assented to the fact of two and two making four, without shedding tears or expressing the smallest doubt or scruple; tell me any other thing absurd or incredible; but, for the love of common sense, let me bear no more of the danger to be apprehended from the general diffusion of Popery."

How rapid and how keen are strokes like the following—the mere sparkle of his oars as they dash onward: "To buy a partridge (though still considered as inferior to murder) was visited with the very heaviest infliction of of the law." etc. Even ministers (whom nothing pesters so much as the interests of humanity) are at last compelled to come forward, etc. "We curse ourselves as a set of monastic madman, and call out for the empty satisfaction of Mr. Percival's head." "Crying out like a school-boy or a chaplain," etc. "The sixth commandment is suspended by one medical diplomatic, from the north of England to the south." "If a man finds a partridge upon his ground eating his corn in any part of Kentucky or Indiana, he may kill it, even if his father is not a Doctor of Divinity." "A good novel is a book which makes you impatient of contradiction and inattentive—even if a bishop is making an observation, or a gentleman, lately from the Pyramids or the Upper Cataracts, is let loose upon the drawing-room."

A whole gallery full of pictures might be collected from his works, full of figures of scenery selected or imagined with exquisite skill, and every touch and adjunct helping the designed effect of ridicule. Take only one, where he runs riot on the imagination of England invaded, laughably heaping together the most incongruous incidents, pursuing his argument all the while. "Old wheat and beans blazing for twenty miles round; cart mares shot; sows of Lord Somerville's breed running wild over the country; the minister of the parish wounded sorely in his hinder parts; Mrs Plymley in fits; all these scenes of war an Austrian or a Russian has seen three or four times over; but it is now three centuries since an English pig has fallen in a fair battle upon English ground, or a farm-horse been rifled, or a clergyman's wife been subjected to any other proposals of love than the connubial endearments of her sleek and orthodox mate." There are besides the pictures of the bishops at their pay-table (*Works*, iii. p. 230); of the indecrous effects of an invitation by Lord John (p. 227); of the agonized scrivener who took the archbishop's oath for him (p. 222); of the ambitious baker and young Crumpet (p. 215); of the clergyman ideal and the clergyman actual (p. 250), a very striking pair; and all these are hung together in the apartment, yclept, "Letters to Archdeacon Singleton": go, reader, and gaze upon these works of art, spirit-stirring, laughter-moving, rare as Sir Toby's catch, that would "draw three souls out of one weaver"!

"Ah, Mr. Smith!" said a Romish dignitary one day, "You have such a way of putting things!" He had received a home-thirst. Among other "ways," the Canon had a habit of making speeches for his adversaries whereby they are rarely discomfitted. He does so (with aggravating truthfulness) for the justice, when pleading on behalf of untried prisoners; he delivers a legal opinion in the person of a fifth judge in the article on man-traps and spring-guns; and he annihilates Noodle by making him open his mouth.

But beyond this legitimate exercise of the dramatic faculty there is the parable of apologue, in which the humour of Smith is unrivalled. Swift's Tale of a Tub and History of John Bull are allegorical caricatures of great power. The satire consists in reducing party characteristics to domestic personalities; in representing the dignified procedure of war, diplomacy and government, under the homely mask of squabbles between relatives and neighbours—the husband and the wife—the master and the servant. The idea is excellent, but the execution coarse, even for those days.

Such indirectness should not be protracted. The *History of John Bull* is sustained too long, and though frequently redeemed by the most felicitous invention, grows rather tiresome by requiring reference to the key at every turn. The satiric fictions of Smith are always pertinent, brief, and delicate in their handling. The story of Mrs. Partington—the convenient passage from the *Dutch Chronicle* about the Synod of Dort—the fables concerning the physician and the apothecary in the reform speeches—and the account of the dinner which opens the sixth of *Peter Plymley's Letters*—are well-known specimens.

The difference is remarkable between the humour of Smith and of Charles Lamb, simple and genial as they both are. Smith is excellent at putting together a principle or a policy in a person—an adept at the representative, concentrative process. Lamb is most fond of taking a person to pieces and unfolding a character—a great master of the explicative art. How he peeps under the foibles and oddities to look at the heart—lovingly dilates upon them—draws us near to strange bits of humanity, and holding a hand of each, makes us friends forever! Smith does great service in bringing *down* to the common level some highflying pretence or title that gives itself airs, and claims to be set apart. Lamb does a service peculiar to himself in bringing some forlorn eccentricity *up* to the level of our ordinary sympathies. Lamb is subjective, individual—a man dreamy, whimsical and unpractical.

Smith moves in the stream of affairs, and has always work in hand. He is too intent on producing conviction to have time for the erratic quaintnesses and leisurely delights of Lamb's meditative fancy. For the same reason, and for higher yet, he can never descend to the tricks and starts, the *coups de theatre*, the utter ribald nonsense, which offends us in Sterne. The very structure of the sentences marks the contrast—the rapid flow of Smith's, the shortness and slight connection of Lamb's, as though deliberately uttered at intervals, in monologue, between the whiffs of the musing pipe. Sydney Smith all minds, in their order, will more or less appreciate; the common prosaic temperament gets out of patience with Lamb, and thinks him childish. Observe how the two speak of the rising convict colony of Sydney. Lamb writes to his friend at the antipodes, "What must you be willing by this time to give for the sight of a honest man! You must almost have forgotten how we look. The kangaroos—your aborigines—do they keep their primitive simplicity un-Europe-tainted, with those little short forepuds, looking like a letter framed from Nature to the pickpocket! Marry, for diving into fobs they are rather lamely provided *á priori*; but if the hue-and-cry were once up, they would show as fair a pair of hind-shifters as the expertest loco-moter in the colony. Do you grow your own hemp? What is your staple trade—exclusive of the national profession, I mean? Your locksmiths, I take it, are some of your great capitalists." Sydney Smith expresses his fears that, in spite of the example of America, this country will attempt to retain the colony under harsh guardianship after it has come to years of discretion. If so, "endless blood and treasure will be exhausted to support a tax on kangaroos' skins; faithful commons will go on voting fresh supplies to support a just and necessary war; and Newgate, then become a quarter of the world, will evince a heroism not unworthy of the great characters by whom she was originally peopled."

PUMPKINS AND SQUASHES OF AMERICAN ORIGIN.—Dr. Harris, of Harvard University, says: "Accident led me, some four years ago, to undertake the investigation of the history of squashes and pumpkins, which has led to quite interesting results. Most of the older and well-known species and varieties were by modern botanists supposed to have come originally from Asia, and particularly from India. This I have proved to be an error, and have shown that these fruits were wholly unknown to the ancients, no mention being made of them in the Scriptures, nor by Greek and Latin authors; the writers of the middle ages, while they describe or take note of other cucurbitaceous plants, entirely omit pumpkins and squashes; and these did not begin to be known and noticed in Europe till after the discovery of America. Early voyagers found them in the West Indies, Peru, Florida, and even on the coast of New England, where they were cultivated by our Indians before any settlements were made here by the Europeans. The old botanists who flourished during the first century after the discovery of the New World, or the West Indies, began to describe them for the first time, and give to them specific names, indicating the Indian (American) origin. Here arose the mistake of modern botanists in referring these plants to the East Indies and to Asia.

"From a study of the history of the plant, I went next to a study of the species with particular reference to their botanical characters, and to this end have been cultivating and examining, every year, all the kinds accessible to me. I think I have established the facts that all the fruits known by the names of 'pumpkins' and 'squashes' are of American origin; that there are three distinct groups of them—the first including summer squashes and pumpkins, with deep, five-furrowed fruit stems; and the third, the winter pumpkins and squashes, with short, cylindrical and longitudinally wrinkled (but not five-furrowed) fruit stems. The last group was, probably, originally confined to tropical and sub-tropical parts of the western side of this continent, from California to Chili. The most esteemed varieties now cultivated in New England belong to this group, and the best of them are the 'autumnal marrow' and 'acorn squashes.'"

RUSSIAN WOMEN.

MDLLE. FREDERIKA BREMER has abstained for some time from literary labour, that she may better devote herself to the works of charity. In a report addressed by her to the Ladies' Society of Stockholm, we find the following: "The most interesting accounts from ladies' associations abroad pertain to Russia. We know little of our Eastern cousin—that immense empire of sixty million inhabitants. We have been told that they are barbarians—that the women—creatures without a soul—count for nothing, and these notions have found readier credence amongst us for the reason that no woman's voice has spoken on the other side in self-defence. These millions of women have remained mute—mute as the Russian dungeons, or the mines of Siberia. From time to time some acts of devotions on the part of a Russian wife, a daughter, or a bride, who, having followed him whom she loves into exile, supported him and died for him, has reached our ears, but even such recitals but rarely. Meanwhile, we knew that these women were Christians, and often have I asked myself—Are there not among them some souls devoted to the interests of suffering humanity, to destitute and helpless youth; some women whose activity is all love and kindness, as amongst the nations of the West? And when I read in our journals that a great number of Russians killed in the sanguinary battle of the Alma carried upon their breasts portraits of women—a wife, a lover—then I exclaimed, 'O, truly are the Russian women worthy of respect and affection; worthy to be loved until death'! Immediately afterwards, I was put in possession of the following circumstantial details relating to female beneficence in Russia. (A list of ladies' societies in Russia is then given).

"The events of the last year have given birth to many new charitable institutions, amongst them the order of the Sisters of the Exaltation of the Cross—an order founded by the Grand Duchess Helena, with the view of caring for the wants of the sick and wounded in the military hospitals. Every Russian woman, without religious distinction, can be admitted into this order, if she possesses the requisite moral and physical conditions, and also certificates of good conduct. She takes a vow of chastity, obedience, patience and abnegation. This order includes persons of every class. Sixty-eight of the number have lately left for the Crimea, their expenses being entirely defrayed by the noble and charitable princess who founded the institution.

"It is especially in the time of actual war and suffering that the Russian women display the rich treasures of patriotism and piety which lie hidden in their souls. Their devotion and their sacrifices for the wounded and the other victims of war know no bounds, and in Crimean hospitals they lavish their attentions with equal solicitude upon compatriots and enemies.

"We have long known the women of the West and their active benevolence; we have all of us lately been filled with rejoicing by the pious pilgrimage of Miss Nightingale and her thirty-seven companions. Why shall we not also interest ourselves in the lives and charity of our Eastern sisters? Why shall we not be equally pleased to see sixty-eight Russian women transport themselves to the bloody fields of the Crimea, to exercise there their mission of